



WASHRAG

TM



Volume 1, Issue 11

November 1999

N3SH WA3SH

www.hky.com/~sanfordb/index.htm

Wireless Association of South Hills

1999 PA QSO Club Expedition: Fun Time & Rousing Success!

If you didn't have a good time in the 1999 PA QSO Party, then you should have been with the Wireless Association members in the 'test!

The WA3SH expedition to Clarion County, despite some last minute cancellations due to work or illness by some of the operators, was a lot of fun. A six person crew — N3SBF NOVLR W3RJM W3SRL W3WH and WN3VAW — activated WA3SH from N3SBF's cabin on October 9th to the tune of 207 QSO's, 63 counties worked, and over 20,000 total points, making sure that no one could say that Clarion was hard to find. In addition, W3SRL and W3WH went out as one mobile team to activate Forest, Elk, and McKean counties — yes, it's hard to believe, but Bill actually worked HF SSB! At the same time, NOVLR, WN3VAW and the WACOM mobile antenna tower (thanks again WACOM!) set up as a Rover tandem in Forest, Clarion and Jefferson counties — and got some nice ad hoc Amateur Radio publicity down at the Cook Forest State Park Fire Tower parking lot, too!

Other club members heard on the air during the contest included KE3XB, KQ3DX, N3WAV, N4MIS, K3WR & N3KEH. (Apologies if we missed someone!)

We hope to have final submitted scores in next month's newsletter. If you operated the contest, don't forget that the deadline for entries is coming up. **All logs must be submitted by November 15th to W3HDH to be eligible.** Contact WN3VAW for any last minute help!

Club Members: Remember to indicate on your entry form that you're a member of WASH to count in the club aggregate score & for the intra-club competition. You can only enter as a member of one club, so choose your club wisely!

Don't forget that anyone making over 100 QSO's is eligible for a commemorative coffee mug customized with your callsign! Check the contest rules for full details.

And the winner is?

We had quite a few entries for our Mystery Photo in last month's newsletter. Of all the entries, we had two guesses that John KE3XB determined were a virtual tie for the closest guess: Bill Cross W3TN and Frank Sanns Jr. N3XI. Both correctly guessed that the tube is (was) used to help create a vacuum. Frank won the random drawing tie-breaker & will be receiving the PSK-31 kit.

We also awarded a prize for the most humorous entry, and hands down, that went to Paul Lusardi NOVLR. Paul decided that it was the "plutonium 232 space modulator" that Bugs Bunny & Daffy Duck were always swiping from Marvin the Martian. (Marvin advises us that Paul meant the "Illudium Q-36 Explosive Space Modulator" and he is NOT happy because Paul's QTH is blocking his view of Venus again.)



John is bringing the tube to the November meeting if you'd like one last look at it or care to hear the full explanation of it's functions!

We had a lot of fun with this contest! This is one contest we're going to do it again!

*73, Ron Notarius WN3VAW, President
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.*

(Thanks to Carolyn Gargaro for the Duck Dodgers & Marvin the Martian GIF file pictured)

Next Meeting: November 11th, 1999

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, November 11th, at 7:00 PM at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church, 875 Clifton Road in Bethel Park. Talk-in on the 146.955 N3RNX/R Repeater.

Main topic for the night will be the **Election of Club Officers for 2000**. So it is very important that all club members make this meeting! We'll also be making plans for the annual Christmas party & discussing the upcoming WASHfest 2000.

All radio amateurs & interested guests are, of course, invited! See you there!

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Schedule of Events

November 1999

- N3SH/WA3SH WASH Club Net, 9:00 PM ET Sunday Nights on the 146.955 & 443.650 Repeaters

NCS Schedule:

- ⇒ November 7th: Chuck N4MIS
- ⇒ November 14th: Bob N3WAV
- ⇒ November 21st: Mark N3RDV
- ⇒ November 28th: Greg KQ3DX

LOOKING AHEAD:

- ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- Straight Key Night
- Don't Forget! **WASHfest 2000**, February 20th, 2000, CSVFD Memorial Hall. It's not too soon to start planning for it! (Contact W3SRL or W3WH for more info)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10/31 <i>Halloween</i>	1 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service GPVHFS Meeting Triple "A" ARA Club Net	2 Butler Co ARA Meeting Carnegie Tech RC Mtg NHARC Club Net SATERN Net Central ARA VE Test	3 Allegheny Co ARES Net Allegheny Co Skywarn Westmoreland Co ARES SCARC Social Night	4 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting	5 Elco ARS Meeting	6 ARRL Sweepstakes CW Collegiate Championship Breezeshooters VE Test RA Erie VE Test
7 ARRL Sweepstakes CW Collegiate Championship Ellwood City ARA Mtg.	8 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service ARL Lawrence Co Mtg. Triple "A" ARA Club Net	9 Foothills ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting NHARC Club Net SATERN Net	10 Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES SCARC Social Night NHARC Meeting	11 WASH Y2K Elections Horseshoe ARC Meeting All Band VHF Sprint Triple "A" ARA VE Test	12 2 Rivers ARC Meeting	13 WAE RTTY Contest JA DX Contest OK/OM DX Contest Butler Co ARC VE Test
14 WAE RTTY Contest JA DX Contest OK/OM DX Contest	15 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Triple "A" ARA Club Net	16 SCARC Meeting NHARC Club Net SATERN Net	17 Allegheny Co ARES Net Allegheny Co Skywarn Westmoreland Co ARES So Pa ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Meeting	18 Triple "A" ARA Meeting Breezeshooters Dinner SHARC VE Test Mahoning Valley ARA VE Test	19 6 M Winter DX Contest	20 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Collegiate Championship NHARC VE Test Hilltoppers VE Test Ft Venango VE Test
21 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Collegiate Championship Elk Co ARA Meeting	22 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Triple "A" ARA Club Net	23 Mercer Co ARC Meeting NHARC Club Net SATERN Net	24 Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES SCARC Social Night NHARC Activity Night	25 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	26 National Turkey Leftover Day	27 CQ WW CW Foothills ARC VE Test MVCWRC VE Test Canton ARC VE Test
28 CQ WW CW Western Reserve ARA VE Test	29 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Triple "A" ARA Club Net Triple States RAC VE Test	30 NHARC Club Net SATERN Net	12/1 Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES SCARC Social Night	12/2 WACOM Meeting	12/3 Elco ARS Meeting	12/4 ARRL 160 M Contest GPVHFS VE Test RA Erie VE Test Uniontown ARC VE Test

WASH 1999 OFFICERS

Executive Committee:

President	Ron Notarius WN3VAW
VP/Secretary	Steve Lane W3SRL
VP/Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

And We Couldn't Do It Without:

N3SH & WA3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL
VE Team Liaison	Bob Sanford AA3FI
Club Communications	Bob Sanford AA3FI
Club Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI
Club Librarian	Paul Lusardi NOVLR
N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers	
2 Meter FM	Don Vollant N3KEH
10 Meter Digital	John Benitez KE3XB
South Hills Hamfest Co-Chairman	Steve Lane W3SRL
(<i>WASHfest 2000</i>)	Bill Hill W3WH
Field Day Chairman	Greg Babin KQ3DX
PA QSO Party Coordinator	Don Vollant N3KEH

Club-Affiliated Repeaters:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX/R	146.955 -	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 +	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FFP/R	443.650 +	PL 131.8

N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 repeater, usually followed by the 10 Meter SSB Informal Net on 28.469 MHz.

The **10 Meter Digital N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet** meets on 28.105 MHz at 9:30 PM ET, starting with RTTY. (Frequencies are +/- QRM). All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. (WASH)**

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The **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** was founded in 1993 as the original South Hills Amateur Radio Club, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH Amateur Radio Club**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way shape or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3FFP/R Repeater System for permitting the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test January 20th!

Our Next VE exam session will be **Thursday, January 20, 2000**, at **7:00 PM**, at the *John McMillan Presbyterian Church*, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on 146.955 MHz. All examiners are ARRL affiliated. Morse code exams are multiple-choice. Walk-ins are welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Bob Sanford AA3FI, telephone (724)-356-4020 or E-Mail: sanfordb@access.hky.com

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of \$6.65 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Remember: Novice written (element 2) and 5 wpm (element 1A) code exams are **free**.

FYI Networks, an internet provider in the Pittsburgh & surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of WASH their Basic Internet account, normally \$20/month, for only \$15/month. This includes 1 e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet & FTP access. Call FYI toll-free 877-FYI-4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. **You must mention that you are a member of the Wireless Association of South Hills to get the discount rate.** Many thanks to FYI Networks for making us this special offer available.

Ham Threads Update!

Ham Threads of Perry, MI is providing embroidered hats, shirts and jackets with the club logo. Because you've asked... yes, they have **"Rugby" long-sleeved shirts and lined Winter jackets too!** When we order as a group, Polo or Rugby shirts are only \$22.95 per shirt; hats are \$10.95; and jackets are only \$42.95 for S M L & XL sizes when we place a group order. (\$2/shirt or \$3/jacket more for 2X 3X & 4X sizes;). If you'd like your name & call, or other lettering, on the opposite side of the shirt or jacket, the cost is \$8 more per item to cover the extra setup involved. Shirts are available in a variety of colors, including Black, White, Forest Green, Natural (Cream), Gold, Red, **Navy Blue**, Royal Blue, California Blue, and "almost any color you can think of." The jackets are available in Black, Forest Green, Khaki and **Navy Blue**. Delivery time is approx. three to four weeks. **We're putting together another order at the November meeting**, so please bring your form & check to the meeting, or send it to WN3VAW or W3SRL before November 15th. (We'd like to mail the order then.) Please make all checks payable to Ham Threads.

The Hurricane Watch Net got a surprise check-in from K4ZDH on October 20th. After Riley announced he & the FCC was monitoring for interference, most of the QRM to the net ceased.

Coincidence? (Nah, we don't think so either!)

N3SH Status: How did Monty Python put it? "Still no sign of land!" As of deadline, we have still not heard from K4ZDH or his staff over at the FCC. Again, based on the last incident, we will have to be patient. Meantime, again remember that club members are advised to refrain from using N3SH on the air to avoid problems. And isn't it sadly ironic that these incidents give us a legitimate reason to continue to also hold the club call WA3SH?

WASHRag Online: Let's face it, the original photos that you see in the newsletter looked great in color. But after converted to gray scale and printed on an old LaserJet II... no. But courtesy of the last hamfest and Adobe Acrobat 3, this and all previous issues of the *WASHRag*, including the special Hamfest edition, will soon be available on the club web site in .PDF format, including all of those photos in full glorious color! You'll need Acrobat Reader 3.01 or higher (available free on the web) to view the files. The August, September, and October 1999 issues are on-line and available now, and this one should be there by the time you read this. Server space permitting, we plan to have all previous issues converted & online within the month. Check the web site to see exactly which ones are now available.

Please remember that if you're storing club gear for us, and haven't already done so, make sure our Quartermaster KB3CPI knows what you have and what type of condition it's in. Harold's is in the process of compiling an up-to-date WASH property inventory so that we know what we have and who's got it.

We're a month away from the December meeting, but you can start making plans to join us for our **annual Christmas party** at the church on **December 9th**. We will again be running a "best and worst shack photos" contest, so start getting your photos ready (photos submitted last year are NOT eligible). More information on this and the party at the November meeting.

WASH Virtual Library: Paul NOVLR has suggested that we set up a "virtual library," consisting of reference books, study guides, software, special topic books, and other items of general interest to club members. We're still ironing out the details, but the idea is that if you have material you don't mind loaning out, Paul will place it on the list. If someone is in need of the material, they will contact directly you to make arrangements. Only items that you feel comfortable loaning out to club members should be included!

Related to this, Bob AA3FI has suggested that the club invest in some amateur radio study guides and other test material to make available to members and potential members who are working towards their license or upgrade.

Last month, you heard about the demise of the UALR call sign server, one of the first Internet call sign servers. The good news is that the server is back up and running with up to date data! You can access the UALR call sign server via <http://www.ualr.edu/~hamradio> for US individual & club station information only.

Did you know...

Renew your membership or join WASH for a full year, and take advantage of FYI Network's offer — the money you save on monthly fees alone pay for your year's membership in four months! (Another in a series of shameless plugs!)

Minutes, October 14th 1999 Meeting

Steve Lane W3SRL Vice President/Secretary WASH

Meeting was called to order at 19:30 by VP/Sec. Steve Lane, W3SRL. Introductions were made, followed by a moment of silence for recent Silent Keys.

Announcement was made that there would be a live demo of ATV immediately after the meeting, courtesy of Mike, WA3PYU.

The minutes of the September 9, 1999 meeting were read.

Steve, W3SRL announced that he had a correction/retraction to make regarding the September minutes. This had to do with him misquoting Dave, N3IDH regarding joint activities between clubs, and the possibility of a merger between clubs. The obvious intent of N3IDH was not represented by W3SRL's interpretation of the minutes, and an apology was offered to N3IDH and WACOM for the mistake (*see next column —ed*).

Motion to accept the amended minutes along with a minor correction to the Treasurer's report was made by N3QMV /N3RDV and carried.

Secretary / Repeater Report: (W3SRL) Repeaters playing well, but occasional intermode on the 2m machine. Moving the 440 machine will be delayed until spring.

2m Net: (N3KEH) Doing OK. Picking up some new ops.

Digital Net: (KE3XB) Picking up also. Planning to pass around the NCS duties when KE3XB is not available to handle NCS duties. Announced that the club has inherited an MFJ-1274 Multimode TNC, which will be handed over to KB3CPI. NOVLR mentioned that <http://www.packetradio.com> has diagrams for most all TNC's.

Contests: General discussion on the PA QSO party. Good time had by all, especially the WA3SH club effort from Clarion County. Special thanks from the club to N3SBF for hosting us.

Hamfest: (W3SRL) W3WH will be helping to get publicity out to the magazines.

President's Report: (WN3VAW via W3SRL) Nothing new.

Treasurer's Report: Read & Accepted.

Old Business: Mt. Lebanon Y2K plea from W3SRL. N3RDV stated that the Field Day pins had been ordered.

New Business: (N3RDV) Greensburg Airport disaster drill on 15 October. Hams still needed.

Nominations for Office: Two offices open, VP/Treasurer and President. N3SBF nominated N3RDV for Treasurer and WN3VAW for President.

Good of the Order: Letter from the church thanking us for our contributions, and for taking such good care of their building. (KE3XB) Free ham magazines on the table, please take them. (NOVLR) Need various sizes of aluminum tubing for a 10-17m dipole. (N3SBF) Would like to use the club rig. No objections heard. (NOVLR) Mentioned WACOM's 30-day rule. (N3SBF) Asked about a Christmas party. Consensus was that we should have one at the church on meeting night.

Motion to adjourn was made at 20:19 hour local time by N3QMV and seconded by KE3XB and then carried.

Mike, WA3PYU then gave his excellent demo on ATV.



Recent Silent Keys:

Humorist Jean Shepard K2ORS ("A Christmas Story") October 16
 Julio Vera-Cruz D44BC, October 13
 CQ WAZ Award Manager Jim Dionne K1MEM October 12

Oops

Steve Lane W3SRL Vice President/Secretary WASH

It has been brought to my attention that there was an error in the transcription of the minutes of the September, 1999 meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. This was inadvertently published in the club newsletter, and caused a certain amount of embarrassment to one of our members.

On review, I have determined that my transcription DID NOT convey the intent of the Speakers's message. I'd like to submit this CORRECTED transcription of that portion of those minutes:

Have been approached informally by two folks from two different clubs about the possibility of merging clubs. Brief discussion followed. Dave, N3IDH (President of WACOM) stated that "Cooperation between clubs is very important" and "I think that WACOM would be open to the idea of some joint activities with other clubs, including WASH. I think that the other Officers of WACOM would agree." General discussion followed.

Dave DeMotte, N3IDH had made his remarks immediately after a brief discussion of the relative merits/demerits of merging with another club. His comments as transcribed could have been misinterpreted in that he thought that WACOM's officers would agree to the possibility of a merger between clubs. THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT THE CASE!!!

The original version of these minutes, when reviewed, did not in fact represent the obvious intent of the speaker, Dave Demotte, N3IDH. Please accept my apologies for any difficulties or embarrassment that this error may have caused.

DAYTON
 iamvention®



Let the Gouging Begin!

The first signs of profiteering from the 2000 Dayton Hamvention / ARRL National Convention are appearing.

Two Motel 6 locations, Dayton North (Miller Road) and Dayton Northwest (Englewood) have informed amateurs with reservations that the single room rate has gone from \$29 to as much as \$73 per night. Dayton North has requested payment in advance with the confirmation, money order or credit card only (no personal checks), and in their letter states that the reservations will be accepted only for all three days/nights of the Hamvention.

Both of these motels have had recent reputations for problems. Both have conveniently lost reservations for amateurs over the last few years. Dayton North overcharged one cash-paying amateur last year, and did not fully refund the difference when it was pointed out to them. Some amateurs staying at Dayton Northwest last year had extraneous charges post-Hamvention show up on their credit cards, which at last word were still in dispute.

If you have reservations with these or other Dayton hotels, check to make sure they are still valid and that the rates haven't suddenly skyrocketed on you. Meanwhile, WN3VAW, KA3UPY & KD3JB have made other arrangements with University of Dayton housing.

Skyhooks: HF Antennas on a Shoestring

Steve Lane W3SRL

In last month's edition of the WASHRAG I described a relatively inexpensive multiband HF antenna, the OCF dipole. Well, compared to the OCF antenna, this month's feature is EXTREMELY modest. Modest enough to actually be called cheap. Effective enough though to be called a WINNER. This month's shoestring antenna feature is a variation on the longwire.

Back in my younger days as an Army Combat Signal Team Chief, and later as a Battalion Communications Chief, I was constantly challenged to find a compact, easy-to-deploy and most of all, an effective antenna to be used on the upper military HF bands. The frequency range was 15-20 MHz AM and RTTY, and occasionally we used VHF in the 32-50 MHz range for local communications.

Well, if you think you have problems with low hanging tree branches and parking garages, I'd like to take you for a short little tank ride! We managed to break every whip antenna in my company in a single afternoon once! Not to big of a deal when we were close together, as in a convoy since we hardly needed antennae then. It was when we broke up to hide in the woods that we needed the added range of a good antenna.

Enter the AB-634A/G longwire.

This antenna, hereafter referred to as the 'Army Longwire' is compact enough to drop in your pants pocket yet effective enough to use as your primary portable antenna. It is simply 300+ feet of very flexible braided copper wire reeled up on a standard open-face fly fishing reel, with a spade terminal on the leading end of the wire. The Army Longwire is simply attached via the spade lug terminal to the antenna tuner's output post, and then you walk off into the woods with the reel, trailing the wire behind you. When you feel you have



reached a minimum of a ¼ wavelength from the tuner, then you can toss a line up into a high tree and attach the reel to it. Once hoisted, you have a perfect sloper antenna with very little loss.

So how does it work? The first weekend in October I was up in Cook's forest with my extended family when I broke out my trusty 20m MFJ QRP set. My MFJ folded dipole, however was safe at home, right where I left it. I was NOT a happy camper! The Army Long wire was safely tucked in the bottom of my radio bag though. YES!!

10 minutes and a couple of wry joke from various family members later, the longwire was up, and I had worked 6 California stations in the California QSO party with only my trusty MFJ QRP rig. SUCCESS!!

The Army Longwire, when used against a ground, and with a tuner is as close to a universal antenna as you are going to get. If it doesn't load up right, just shorten or lengthen it a bit. When you are done, reel it back in and stick it in your pocket.

Don't have an Army Depot in your backyard? No problem. A fly reel and 200' of flexible wire will set you back all of 15-18 bucks at K-Mart or Wal-Mart. Reel up most of the wire and put on a large ring or hook terminal to connect to the antenna tuner. That's it! You now have a true, ALL-BAND wire antenna.

I also pack a spool of 10lb. Test monofilament fishing line and an old padlock to use in getting the antenna up into the trees.

A ground rod really helps the performance, but isn't absolutely necessary in most cases to get on the air.

73, and so long until next month. Let me know how well it works!

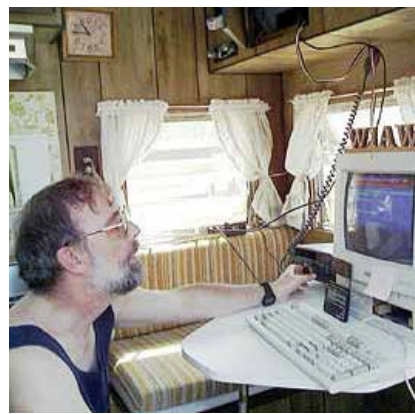
Television Hill Repeater Report

Ed DeHart WA3YOA, North Hills ARC Repeater Committee

We lost our position on the top of WPXI's tower for our 444.4 MHz repeater. We knew this would happen when WPXI needed to upgrade the tower to handle their new HDTV antenna. For those who didn't know we shared an antenna with WPXI, it was on top of their tower connected to 800 feet of hardline. WPXI used the antenna a couple of weeks in May, and we used it the rest of the year. Today the repeater is still located in WPXI's basement. The repeater is on-the-air using our stand-by antenna, located on the top of their building. There is a chance we will be able to find a spot on their tower after all of the construction is finished. If we are unable to do so, we will look for a new location.

The 147.09 MHz repeater is also located at WPXI. It's antenna is still on the tower and is not effected by the tower upgrade.

All of us are very thankful for WPXI's support. Their generosity is something I wish we could repay but there is no way for NHARC or the Pittsburgh Ham Radio Community to really express how grateful we are for their help. Thank You WPXI!



Did you work **W1AW** in the 1999 Pennsylvania QSO Party? ARRL HQ staffer Dan Miller K3UFG (right) put W1AW on the air, working 171 stations. [Thanks Dan! Please QSL!]

(Shown: K3UFG/1 at the 1999 W1AW/1 Field Day. Photo by Kevin King N1JUX, courtesy ARRLWeb Extra Photo Gallery)

Noted Science Fiction writer David Gerrold is suing Paramount and Gene Roddenberry's Norway Corporation for breach of contract. He was to receive 5% of the proceeds of merchandise sales related to the furry little creatures he invented for a popular "Star Trek" episode, his first professional sale, but he is alleging years of fraud have cheated him and is demanding a full accounting. If he wins, he may be entitled to Tribble damages.

— Courtesy Adam Bailey & Optical Data Network #93

Western Pennsylvania Nets (Updated)

Original list, Bill Such N3INT

Updated by Bill Kristoff N3BPB

All Times Eastern

FM Nets unless noted

Quarter Century Wireless Assn.	SUN	0830	147.03+
Eiko ARS		1900	145.11-
WPA South ARES		1900	147.15+
SWPA Public Service		1930	147.09+
Clarion ARC		2000	146.985-
Butler County Amateur FM Assn.		2030	147.24+
Wireless Association Of South Hills		2100	146.955- & 443.65+
Mt. Pleasant ARC		2100	147.015+
Cambria Co 2M Emergency		2100	146.94-
Triangle ARC		2100	146.70-
WASH Digital		2130	28.105 RTTY
<hr/>			
2 Rivers ARC	MON	2000	146.73-
Indiana ARC		2000	146.91-
Beaver Co Public Service		2030	146.85-
Clarion ARC		2030	146.19-
Breezeshooters		2100	28.485 SSB
Triple "A" ARA		2100	146.85-
Armstrong Co ARES/RACES		2100	145.41- 173.8 PL
	&	2130	146.745-
<hr/>			
SATERN	TUES	2000	146.61-
Monesson ARC		2000	147.27+
North Hills ARC		2030	146.09+
WACOM Public Service		2030	145.49-
Ellwood City ARC		2030	135.17-
GPVHFS Swap & Shop		2100	146.61-
<hr/>			
Traders Net	WED	1900	145.31-
Mon Valley CW Radio Club		1900	146.925-
Westmoreland Co ARES		2000	145.15-
BVARA Tech Elmer Net		2000	145.31-
BVARA		2030	145.31-
Allegheny Co Skywarn		2030	147.09 1st & 3rd
Allegheny Co ARES/RACES		2100	147.09+
Q & A		2100	146.805-
<hr/>			
Triple "A" ARA Computer	THUR	1900	146.85 2nd & 4th
Uniontown Swap		2000	145.17-
Swap Net		2030	145.835-
Skyview RS		2100	146.64-
Uniontown ARC		2100	147.045+
Butler Co Public Service Group		2100	145.39-
<hr/>			
Round Table	FRI	2100	444.40+
<hr/>			
NHARC Elmer Net	SAT	2100	146.88-
<hr/>			
Breakfasters	MON – FRI	0630	146.85-
		0845	146.85-
Butler Co Traffic & Weather Watch		2210	147.36+
Erie Area Mailbag Traffic & Info (NTS)		1900	146.70-
<hr/>			
Pennsylvania Phone Net	(IND) DAILY	1730	3958 SSB
WPA Phone & Traffic	(NTS)	1800	3983 SSB
WPA CW	(NTS)	1830	3585 CW
WPA 2M Traffic	(NTS)	2000	146.88-
NWPA 2M Traffic	(NTS)	2100	145.13-

Suggestions

Paul Lusardi NOVLR

I really enjoy the various special interest talks at the monthly club meetings. I hope that WASH can keep that going — I really think that it helps the club attendance and interest.

As a recent newcomer to HF I can think of a few good topics to help us through the winter months. It would be nice to develop a small course in HF communications. Since we all know a bit about VHF/UHF already (from a user perspective anyway), it would be nice to understand how to best utilize the HF resources (bands)

How about an outline like this:

HF Bands (Operating Methods & Propagation Techniques):

- When to use them day, night, etc....
- Where to find DX, nets, rag chew, etc....
- What season is active on what bands (Summer, Fall, etc)

DX: How to use the tools (PacketCluster, Propagation charts, etc)

Antennas: Which kind is good for what purposes

Awards:

- How to easily work your first awards (WAC, WAS)
- What is a QSL card?
- How can I ensure I get one returned?
- How to send/receive overseas cards
- Where can I get QSL info (QRZ.com, CD, Packet Cluster)

Modes: SSB, CW, Digital Modem, SSTV (covered), ATV (covered)

Internet gateways:

- How to send and receive e-mail via HF
- How to extract web pages (text only) via packet

Contests, Radio & Special Events: Breezeshooters, Field Day, QSO Parties, JOTA to name some.

Finding radio equipment: Swaps, Hamfests, SK sales, Home brew QRP operating

Computer logging programs:

- Making QSL cards & labels for QSL cards
- Monitoring award statuses via logging program

Operationing: How operators search, call, log, QSL and get replies from their contacts (mostly for newbies)

Community & Public Service:

- What is in The "go kit"
- What does "being prepared" mean?
- Can we sponsor a Scout Troop or Explorer Post?

In the spring/summer time, how about discussions about antenna maintenance etc and vacation scheduled QSO's (W3SRL & KE3XB take note!)

After reading the above list a second time, it turned out to more of a "brain dump" of topics that I would like to hear more about. But there are hundreds of small topics that could be of interest and some are small enough to be put into a newsletter fashion instead of a meeting format.

Has anyone thought about trying to secure a clubhouse for the WASH club? (*sigh* — ed)

What about an "elmer list" - putting a name (and email) next to a topic in every quarterly (?) newsletter to let people know who to go to if they have questions on a certain topic? (*volunteers?* — ed)

Phew! That hurt my head....

WA3SH & The WASH Rovers — 1999 PA QSO PARTY Photos courtesy Steve Lane W3SRL



Above: W3WH (l) and W3RJM (r) giving out WA3SH Clarion County CW & SSB QSO's to the pileups



Above: The W3SRL/M Mobile Team running into company out on the road — Steve & Bill caught up with WACOM's Ken Frankenberry AA3GM of Kane, PA (formerly of Washington PA)

The NOVLR/R & WN3VAW/R Rover Combo QRV from Forest County...
 Left — the station with the WACOM mobile tower (thanks again WACOM!)
 Below — NOVLR's turn at the rig, explaining again that some O's are /3
 Right — NOVLR relaxing at N3SBF's after returning from Jefferson County



DX Short Takes

New Swedish Vanity Callsigns courtesy Jari Talkara OH1BOI

Call	QSL Via	Call	QSL Via	Call	QSL Via
7S0SFJ	SK0QO	7S7KUL	SK7DD	SL3A	SM3OJR
7S1LGT	SM1TDE	8S1IG	SK1BL	SM1A	SM0SBI
7S2A	SM2LWU	8S2F	SM2HWG	SM3E	SM3JLA
7S3A	SM3CER	8S4X	SM0GNU	SM3X	SM3CVM
7S3X	SM3DMP	8S5A	SM5AJV	SM3Y	SM3CWE
7S5F	SK4AO	8S6A	SM6DPF	SM4L	SM4EFV
7S5T	SM7NDX	SI9AM	SM3CVM	SM5G	SM5JBM
7S6A	SM6DOI	SK3A	SM3CVM	SM5R	SM5AOB
7S6R	SM6REA	SK6D	SK6DZ	SM6A	SM6DYK
7S6W	SM6DER	SK6M	SM6DYK		

The famous licensing information pages by Veikko Komppa "Veke" OH2MCN are moving to <http://www.qsl.net/oh2mcn/license.htm>. The change has been done due to a policy change at VTT, The Technical Research Centre of Finland.

The above pages contain detailed information on how to get a radio amateur license when you travel abroad. The material (about 1 Mbytes) covers in practice all radio amateur countries with 230 entries at the moment. The information includes Contact information of PTT, National club, Paperwork needed, the best way to get a license, Price, Special calls, How long before you can operate, License restrictions, Customs, Useful local contacts, Places to operate from, Notes, and Travel hints. The pages are shared with the similar pages of ARRL (Operating Permit Information by Country).

The above pages have helped numerous recent DX-peditions in sorting our how to do it in practice.

— Veikko Komppa "Veke" OH2MCN, ex OH5VD, OH2XD, CR9D, VK9YD, S79VD, FROVD, 3D2VD, 9M8VD, 5W1VD
Courtesy of W3UR/The Daily DX

According to the April issue of the Russian magazine "Patriot", a meeting was held in April at which the two Russian QSL bureaus (Box 59 and Box 88) were unified. According to the article (thanks to W4KM for the translation from the original Russian), the new combined bureau will be located at the premises of the Box 88 bureau, and from now on Box 88 will be the official QSL Bureau address. However, Box 59 will be kept open until mail stops coming in to it.

— Fred Laun K3ZO aalaun@ibm.net

Ever wonder about the difference between a JA, a JR, a 7J and an 8J? It's all explained at <http://homepages.enterprise.net/rin/Enigma.htm>, courtesy of Rimmei Fukuda, JG1VVGX.

— courtesy of the YCCC Reflector & ARRLWeb Extra

After several weeks of review and soul-searching, the Board of Directors of the New Orleans International DX Convention voted to dissolve the convention. Faced with a financial deficit and a flat attendance for the last several years, a majority of the Board were no longer willing or able to justify the extensive amount of work and effort that was required to maintain a quality program. It was with great sadness that this final step was taken. The Board extends its sincere thanks to all of our friends and supporters, as well as to all those who have attended over the last 8 years.

— Don Boudreau W5FKX

DX News Briefs

G3SWH will be QRV as **9M6PWT** from November 3 -15, 40 to 10 meters, CW only. Times of activity will be on an "as and when" basis. QSL direct. — G3SWH



"The operator of **9U5D** is Ragge Jagero, SM5DIC/5X1D/9Q5TE, who is working in our team, based in Burundi. He confirmed to me that he has a valid license, and has forwarded all documentation to the ARRL, who apparently accepted his documentation." QSL Direct Only via SM0BFJ — Peter ON6TT/5X1T

"When I worked him on 10 meters, I asked about the length of his stay. He said he will be there until Christmas. He is busy with his work, he is usually on during his spare time, around 0500z in the local morning, 1100z when he takes a break for lunch and 1630z or so in the local evening." — Steve IK4WMH

KH2D is home recovering after spending over a week in a Honolulu hospital. He says that he is leaving Guam for good soon. "The worse part about it happening over here is that going to the doctor or the hospital can be hazardous to your health... so you have to go to the airport instead, and hope you can stay alive long enough to make it to a doctor that is 3,600 miles away. But it ain't gonna happen again, we are packing to move to civilization." His station is dismantled (though he was active in the CQ WW DX Contest in October) and he is currently seeking a new QTH in Hawaii. No word on when he will depart from Guam— KH2D

F6AUS and F6AOI will be active as either **FO/home call** or **FO0xxx** from the **Marquesas** & French Polynesia from November 3rd through 22nd — F6AJA & Les Nouvelles DX

The Cray Valley Radio Society (CVRS) will operate **M2000A** from December 31, 1999 to February 29, 2000 to celebrate the new Millennium from the Greenwich Meridian. Five stations will operate on all bands (3.5-144 MHz). QSL via G4DFI. — 425 DX News

Look for **SV5/G4OBK** and **SV5/G4RCG** from the Radio Club of Rhodes November 25 through December 2. QSL via home calls. They will join the **J45T** Multi-Multi team for the CQ WW CW DX Contest (QSL via SV5TH). — G4OBK

3A/I1YRL August 1999 was a Pirate. Don't QSL. — 3A2MF & I1YRL

Look for special Philippine prefix **DU67** thru the end of the year to celebrate the 67th anniversary of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association. — 4F1RWW

"Put this message out in DX bulletins. Did you know that IRC's are useless in **Lebanon**? 2000 IRC's = Zero!" — OD5NJ via VK3EW

VE2DPS is now QRV as **3XY2D** through December 22. Be patient as he is running a G5RV barefoot! QSL to VE2DPS — VE2KH

W3UR plans to be active in the November CQ WW CW contest from **A61AJ**. — W3UR/The Daily DX

G4EDG is **5W0ST** for the next month. QSL via G4EDG – OPDX

Congratulations to Joe **W3TVB** for achieving DXCC Honor Roll!

Thanks to the KH2D DX Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, & ARRL DX Bulletins for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to W3UR/The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



Allegheny County ARES News

Bob Ferrey Jr. N3DOK,
EC, Allegheny County
(412) 367-2393 or n3dok@pgh.net

I want to let you know that effective October 3, 1999, I have resigned my position as ARES Emergency Coordinator for Allegheny County.

I have done my best with the job for better than a year now, with the help of all of you. It is time for me to move on and do things in amateur radio where I think my talents can be better used.

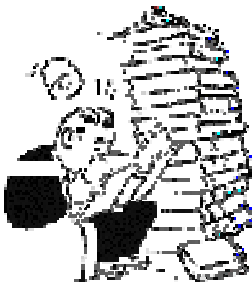
I appreciate all of you who have taken part in ARES events over the past year and hope that you will treat my successor as well as you have treated me.

ARRL Contest News: VYØ Status

Dan Henderson N1ND, ARRL Contest Manager

The ARRL Contest Branch has been asked to clarify how **VYØ** Nunavut Territory fits into the ARRL Contest Program, in particular how it will count as a multiplier in contests.

The Nunavut territory was created in April 1999 from territories formerly part of the Northwest Territories. It was granted a specific amateur radio call sign prefix of VYØ. Within Canada, it remains a territory, not a new province.



In contests which use ARRL/RAC sections for scoring, Nunavut remains part of the Northwest Territories / Yukon multiplier, not an addition or new multiplier. This includes the ARRL Sweepstakes and 160 Meter

Contests. In contests which use political delineations, the Nunavut Territory, which is being given the abbreviation designator of **NU**, will count as a new multiplier, effective January 1, 2000. This includes the International DX Contest, the RTTY Round-Up and the 10 Meter Contest. Field Day, which does not use sections, provinces or states as scoring multipliers, is not affected. The IARU HF World Championship uses ITU zones as multipliers and is not affected.

For more information please contact: Dan Henderson, N1ND at n1nd@arrl.org or at (860) 594-0232.

"I am sure I can speak for all members of the North Hills Amateur Radio Club, the BreezeShooters, the ARES/RACES & Red Cross of Allegheny County in saying we will truly miss Bud Faulhaber N3DOS and his faithful commitment of his time and equipment to our organizations. Bud sort of adopted me when he was licensed in the early 1980s, and it was truly a family type of love and commitment. I will truly miss him. He is now living with his daughter until new housing arrangements are finalized." Bud's new address:

C. E. "BUD" FAULHABER, N3DOS, c/o Shawn Ornstein, 8027 Landgrove Court, Orlando, FL 32189 phone (407)-294-7923

— Bill Kristoff N3BPP

FCC Enforcement News

ARRLWeb Extra courtesy American Radio Relay League

WASHINGTON, DC, Oct 27, 1999 — The Federal Communications Commission has made it official. The FCC has announced the creation of two new bureaus — the Enforcement Bureau and the Consumer Information Bureau — effective November 8. FCC Chairman Kennard made the announcement before the House Telecommunications Subcommittee.



The FCC says the change will enhance the Commission's ability to serve the public by improving the effectiveness of the agency's enforcement program in an increasingly competitive communications marketplace. It will also maximize the ability of consumers to obtain quick, clear and consistent information about their rights under communications law.

"Our decision to establish bureaus devoted exclusively to enforcement and consumer information signals the enormous importance of these functions in our transition from an industry regulator to a market facilitator," Kennard said. "This reorganization is the first step in a larger effort to streamline and modernize the FCC."

Kennard said he looks forward to continuing to work with his colleagues at the Commission and in Congress "to implement the additional measures that will be critical to redefining ourselves as we enter the 21st Century." The new bureau will consolidate enforcement functions--including amateur--and personnel from the Commission's existing Common Carrier, Mass Media, Wireless Telecommunications and Compliance and Information Bureaus.

Current FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he hopes the reorganization eventually will permit him to increase the amount of time he's able to devote to Amateur Radio enforcement. Hollingsworth will get a new title as part of the reorganization: Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement.

The new CIB will consolidate the FCC's Gettysburg Call Center, the Office of Public Affairs' Public Service and Reference Operations Divisions, most of the existing staff in the Wireless Telecommunications and Common Carrier Bureaus responsible for handling informal consumer complaints, and staff from other bureaus responsible for handling public information requests. The Consumer Information Bureau also will oversee the Commission's compliance with disabilities-related legal requirements.

Hollingsworth says his temporary duty as manager of the FCC National Call Center (to be renamed the Consumer Center) will be extended a few more weeks. He has agreed to be detailed back from the new Enforcement Bureau to the new Consumer Information Bureau to handle the Consumer Center at Gettysburg after the new bureaus become effective November 8. The temporary duty will last four to six weeks. Hollingsworth says Amateur Radio enforcement will be his priority, and, by agreement between the two bureaus, amateur enforcement will continue at its present pace. Hollingsworth's current duties also include Land Mobile Service enforcement.

The Commission is retaining a small stand-alone Office of Media Relations to interact with news media and oversee the agency's Web site. The Office of Public Affairs will be phased out once the reorganization is effective.



Now in our Fifth BIG year!!

WASHfest 2000

The South Hills Hamfest



An Amateur Radio and Computer Show Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

**Where: Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall
Rt. 88 (Library Road at Grove Road) in Castle Shannon, PA
Just 10 minutes from Downtown Pittsburgh**

**When: Sunday, February 20, 2000 (3^d Sunday in February)
Rain Snow Sleet or Shine!
Doors open at 6:00 AM for vendor set-up ONLY
Open to the General Public 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM**

**Talk-In: 146.955 (-) N3RNX Repeater starting at 5:00 AM
Hamfest Communications from WA3SH**

**Prizes for the Main Prize Raffle to be determined
Main Prize tickets are available for a donation of \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00
(Proceeds benefit the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.)**

**Acres of FREE parking, and everything is on one handicapped-accessible level.
General Admission is still only a \$4.00 donation per person. Harmonics under 10 are admitted
FREE with adult admission. Tables are \$15.00 each with electricity (limited number) and \$10.00
without power. All display areas are located INSIDE CSVFD's spacious banquet facility.**

For further information and/or reservations:

**Steve Lane W3SRL, Hamfest Co-Chairman w3srl@adelphia.net 412-341-1043
Bill Hill W3WH, Hamfest Co-Chairman billhill@nb.net 724-746-5944 (day) 724-746-1776 (night)**

WASHfest 2000, P.O. Box 79211 Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Also, check out the WASH Club website: <http://www.hky.com/~sanfordb/index.htm>

WASHfest 2000/South Hills Hamfest Reservation Form – PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE LEGIBLY!

_____ Tables WITH Electricity @ \$15.00 ea. = \$_____	Name_____
_____ Tables W/O Electricity @ \$10.00 ea. = \$_____	Address: _____
_____ Prize Tickets at \$2.00 ea. Or 3/ 5.00 = \$_____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
_____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____	Phone: (_____) _____ - _____
	Email: _____

Please return completed reservation form to Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. Hamfest Headquarters – P.O. Box 79211 Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Make all checks payable to WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. – Absolutely NO REFUNDS!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2000



I would like to join WASH. I am interested in the following type of membership: **New Membership** **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter >>>>)
(check one)

1st Qtr
Jan-Mar

2nd Qtr
Apr-Jun

3rd Qtr
Jul-Sept

4th Qtr
Oct-Dec

- | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership: | \$20.00 | \$15.00 | \$10.00 | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: | \$10.00 | \$7.50 | \$5.00 | \$2.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership: | \$10.00 | \$7.50 | \$5.00 | \$2.50 |

(FM1) Family Membership (F1 or F2 or A1 dues x 20% x No. of household family members): \$_____

Name(s): _____

Call Sign: _____

Name: _____

License Class: _____

Address: _____

Expires On: _____

City, State: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

Email Address: _____

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
C/O Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



WASH November 1999 Group Order Form for "Ham Threads" Embroidered Shirts, Jackets and Hats



Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost

Available	Cost (S M L XL)	Cost (2X 3X 4X)
Golf Shirts	\$22.95	\$24.95
Rugby Shirts	\$22.95	\$24.95
Light Jackets	\$42.95	\$45.95
Lined Jackets	\$42.95	\$45.95
Hats	\$10.95	\$10.95

Additional Costs:
Add Call above Club Logo: None
Add Name & Call opposite Club Logo: \$8
Prices, availability & available colors subject to change without notice.
Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

Total Enclosed

Bring this form with payment attached to the November meeting. Make checks payable to "Ham Threads"
If you can't make the meeting, contact WN3VAW, W3SRL or N3RDV to make arrangements. We'd like to place this order by November 15 to arrive in time for the December meeting. Please allow 3 - 4 weeks for delivery.

Inside This Issue:

- Dayton 2000 Reservation Rip-off?
 - Effective Antennas on a Budget
 - Looking for a WPA net?
 - WASH Virtual Library?
 - At Last! The WASHRag's on the Web Page!
- And that's just for starters... of course!



Bob Evan's/Cranberry Parking Lot,
October 9th 1999, about 8 AM...

Into the Mountains of PA drove the WASH Crew, to join up
with N3SBF, Clarion County at hand...

Shown: N0VLR, WN3VAW, W3RJM, W3WH, photo by W3SRL

More WA3SH PA QSO Party Pictures Inside!

ELECTION NIGHT! November 11th Meeting!
Time to Elect Your WASH Y2K Officers!

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
<http://www.hky.com/~sanfordb/index.htm>



The *WASH*Rag
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