



WASHRAG

TM



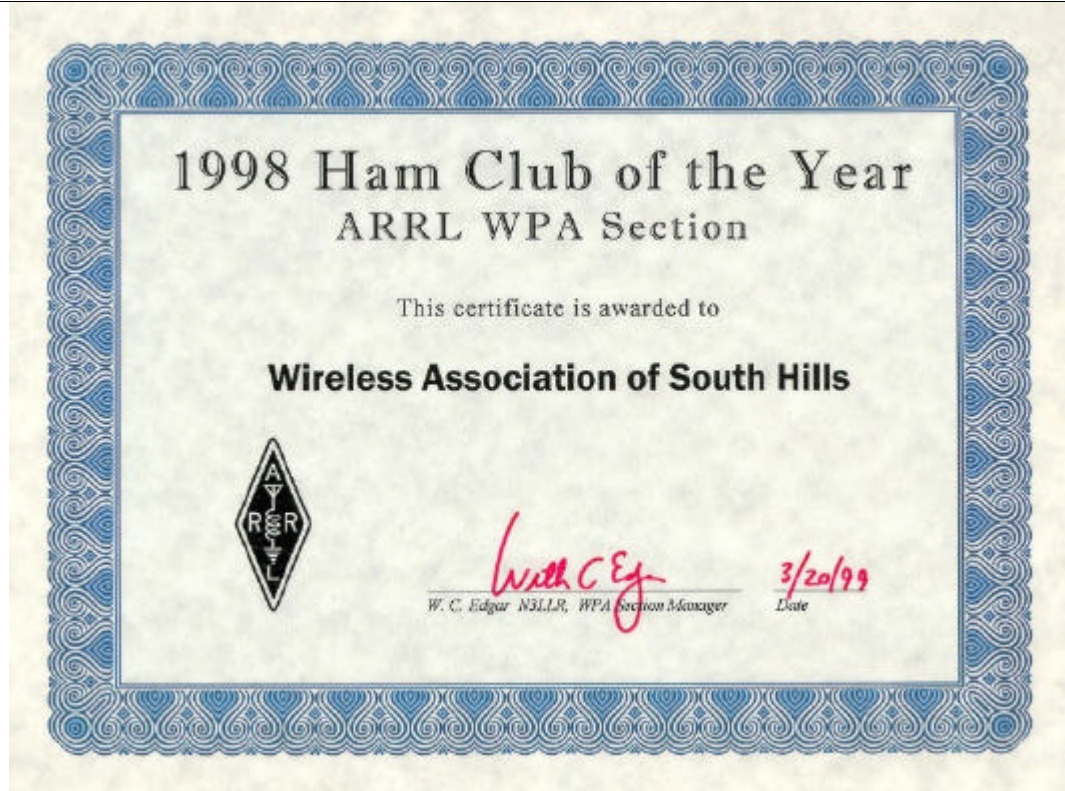
Volume 1, Issue 4

April 1999

WA3SH

<http://www.hky.com/~sanfordb/index.htm>

Wireless Association of South Hills



At the 1999 WPA Club President's Conference at Camp Lutherlyn, Prospect, PA, ARRL WPA Section Manager Bill Edgar presented the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. with this award for Best Ham Club of 1998 for the WPA section. WASH was cited for this award because of the way in which we handled adversity in the Fall of 1998. When we were forced to undergo many changes by an unusual set of circumstances, we chose to put that adversity aside and re-dedicate the organization to having fun with our hobby again — and then we went out and did it!

On behalf of the entire organization, I'd like to thank Bill and the ARRL WPA section leadership for this honor and distinction. And rest assured — we're not done yet!

To the entire organization, congratulations to everyone. This was a group effort, we were all involved in it to one degree or another, and each and every one of us can be proud of it.

And now we keep going! Upcoming we've got events like the Dayton Hamvention, Breezeshooter's Hamfest, Pittsburgh Marathon, Field Day, PVGP, PA QSO, VE tests, and lots more. We're going keep right on having fun doing it all, too!

And remember: One More in 99!

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

Next Meeting April 8, 1999

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, April 8th, 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.

Our scheduled guest speaker will (finally!) be professional freelance broadcast engineer Jack Layton W9UK.

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

See you there!

Inside this issue:

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Pirates Trip & Field Day Information	3
Hamfest of the Americas	5
Is ARRL changing it's name?	6
Marathon & Walkathon Information	7
SWPA DXH&PDS Annual Meeting	8

Schedule of Events


April 1999

• WASH Club Net, 9:00 PM ET
 Sunday Nights on 146.955-
 NCS Schedule:

- April 4th: Frank N3XI
- April 11th: Bob AA3FI
- April 18th: Greg KQ3DX
- April 25th: TBA

• **LOOKING AHEAD:**

- **May 1st:** WASH Pirate Game.
 Game time 1:35 PM — so it won't interfere if you're involved in...
- **May 2nd:** The City of Pittsburgh Marathon (& other races)
- **May 2nd:** WACOM Swap'n'Shop, Washington County Fairgrounds
- **May 12th:** General Meeting, Pgh. Vintage Grand Prix Assn., 8 PM, Holiday Inn Select, Oakland
- **May 15-17:** Dayton HamVention, Dayton Ohio (but you knew that)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 WACOM Meeting, 7:30 PM at South Strabane VFD #1 Washington PA	2	3
4	5 Bum of the Month Lunch	6 SHPB&M Meeting 8 PM, Community Room, Whitehall Boro Building	7 NHARC Business Meeting, 7 PM, Northland Public Library	8 WASH Club Meeting, 7 PM, John McMillan Presbyterian Church Bethel Park	9	10 2 Rivers ARC Hams'n'Eggs Bkfst, 9 AM, Norwin Diner US 30 Irwin
11	12	13 Steel City ARC Meeting 8 PM W3KWH Clubhouse	14	15 WASH VE Session, 7 PM TAARA Meeting Breezeshooters Dinner	16 2 Rivers ARC Meeting, 8 PM, White Oak EMS	17
18 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest, Palace Inn, Monroeville MS Walkathon	19	20	21 NHARC Activity Meeting, 7 PM, Northland Public Library	22	23	24
25 Penn Del ARC Hamfest, DE	26	27	28	29	30	

WASH 1999 OFFICERS

Executive Committee:			
President	Ron Notarius WN3VAW		
VP/Secretary	Steve Lane W3SRL		
VP/Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV		
WA3SH & N3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL		
VE Team Liaison	Bob Sanford AA3FI		
Club Communications	Bob Sanford AA3FI		
WA3SH Net Managers			
2 Meter FM	Don Vollant N3KEH		
10 Meter Digital	John Benitez KE3XB		
South Hills Hamfest Chairman	Steve Lane W3SRL		
Field Day Chairman	Greg Babin KQ3DX		
PA QSO Party Chairman	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
WA3SH Net, 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 WA3SH Net meets on 28.105 MHz at 9:30 PM ET, starting with RTTY.			
(Both 10 meter 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)**

This issue is © Copyright 1999 by the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Comments, articles, and requests for copies of or information about **"The WASHRag™"** should be mailed to the editor:
 Ron Notarius WN3VAW
 3505 Rosalia Avenue
 Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317.
 Email: wn3vaw@qsl.net or wn3vaw@arrl.net

"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WA3SH Net & WASH Net are ™ trademarks of the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.**

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. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group 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 April 15th!

Our Next VE exam session will be **Thursday, April 15, 1999, at 7:00 PM**, at the *John McMillan Presbyterian Church*, 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 \$6.45 (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.

The official results of the 47th Annual Breezeshooters Groundwave Contest are in! Congratulations to the following WASH members spotted in the results:

Zone 1: **N3XI** 3rd Place
N3WAV 15th Place
KE3XB 27th Place
 Zone 2: **W3RJM** 4th Place
N3SBF 14th Place
 QRP: **N2QIV** 7th Place
 CW : **W3WH** 7th Place
 Club/Multi-Operator:
W3SRL 2nd Place



Complete results available at www.breezeshooters.net. Thanks to N3BPB for compiling the information & N3UE for posting it on the web!

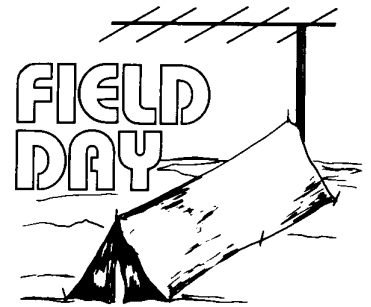
The annual WPA Presidents Conference was held on March 20th at Camp Lutherlyn in Prospect, PA (about 6 miles east of Moraine State Park). WASH was represented by WN3VAW, KQ3DX, N3UE and N3WAV, along with about 40 other amateurs from close to two dozen WPA radio clubs. Featured speakers included special guest Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH of the FCC, Rick Palm K1CE from ARRL Headquarters, Kay Craigie WT3P & Bernie Fuller N3EFN of the ARRL Atlantic Division.

One of the themes of the conference was **One More in 99**. It's a very simple challenge: Each active radio amateur is asked to recruit one person into the amateur ranks during 1999. Think you can do it?

Saturday, May First, 1:35 PM, the 1999 Pittsburgh Pirates versus the Colorado Rockies at Three Rivers Stadium. Circle that date on your calendar as the first WASH Pirate Game! We're looking to get together a group of WASH members, other amateur radio operators, friends, guests & their families to go as a group. A few tickets are still available at \$15 per person for seats in Section 257. Checks should be made payable to WASH & mailed NOW to WASH President Ron Notarius WN3VAW, 3505 Rosalia Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15234. Include an SASE; as soon as the tickets are purchased they will be mailed to you. We must have the \$\$\$ to the Pirates before April 15th to ensure our seats!



Well, our plans are off to a good start for Field Day 1999. The first step has been completed, which was to reserve a site in the South Hills. I'm pleased to report that our setup will be at Mineral Beach, off of Route 88, near Library. Now it is time to start thinking about logistics. Our plans are to run Class 2A, with 3 HF stations on simultaneously, (One Phone, One CW, and One Novice/Tech) plus an additional VHF/UHF station. To do this we will need some equipment. If you have any equipment that you would like to loan the club for the weekend, please let either Ron WN3VAW, Steve W3SRL, or me know; we would greatly appreciate it! We are looking for radios, antennas, feedline, batteries, generators, meters, and just about anything else you can think of that we will need. Also we will need volunteers to help set up and take the stations down, in addition to operators to operate them! It is never too early to start thinking about this stuff, so please give some serious consideration to coming out, helping out, and just plain having fun. This is going to be a big job to pull this off successfully, and I cannot do it all by myself, so please consider volunteering. I would also like to know who would be interested in operating; if you are please let me know. If we have (hopefully) a big turnout, we will come up with some sort of schedule for the operators. Yes, we do plan to have food; nothing fancy, probably Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Kielbasa, soda pop and such (full menu to be decided later, let me know what you'd like now!)



So, if you're interested in helping out in any way (member or not of WASH), drop me an E-Mail at KQ3DX@hotmail.com; I'll be happy to hear from you! Also, many thanks to Richie, N3SBF and Steve, W3SRL for securing our site for this year!

— Greg Babin KQ3DX, 1999 Field Day Chairman

Going to Dayton this year? Monitor 146.955 simplex at the HARA Arena to hook up with fellow WASH club members.

The Washington County Sky Warn Class will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. in the South Strabane Fire Department #2, 172 Oak Springs Road, Washington, PA. This class is put on by the National Weather Service. The class is open to everyone, ham or not, so please spread the word and try to attend.

“It’s a Worthy Cause!”

Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Part of the job of editing a club newsletter is deciding what goes in. Requests for amateurs to participate in communications for various public service events is at the top of the list.

But... there are so many! And they’re all good, worthy causes. If you want, it is possible to spend a few hours almost every weekend of the Spring, Summer and Fall helping out communications for these events, sometimes two or three the same weekend. Trust me on that, it helped get me through a lonely time when my first marriage broke up. Most people can’t do that, even if they wish to.

But whether it’s 10 hams for a neighborhood bike-a-thon, 150 for the Pittsburgh Marathon or 200 for the Vintage Grand Prix, or the thousands that help out at during a Rose Bowl Parade, the biggest problem is: How does the organizer get the hams she/he needs, especially when competing with so many other noble events?

First, Plan. Know how many people you’re going to need at a bare minimum, how many you can use, how many are too much. Know exactly what you’d like them to do. Know what frequency you’re going to use, with backups – and will it be simplex or repeater on two meters? Most amateurs are excellent establishing and maintaining a communications net, but you have to know what kind of communicating they’re going to do once they get there. And if you’ve done this before, stay in touch with the people who were there the last time or last few times. Your regulars will come back if you don’t forget about them!

Second, get the word out on the nets. Early & Often. Too often a worthy cause comes up at the last minute when someone who’d have loved to help can’t because they’re going to be working, out of town, or at another event. Frequent reminders keep the upcoming event in people’s minds so that they don’t forget & make other plans the same day as your commitment (but don’t overdue it!).

Third, expand the circle. Too often, events in Allegheny County are only mentioned on the 147.09 Allegheny County ARES net. Ditto events in Beaver, Westmoreland, Washington, etc. Make sure your event gets mentioned on other area repeaters & ARES/RACES or other public service nets. If it isn’t, the group of people who’d have been perfect to help out & are ready, willing and able don’t come – because they lived a few miles away from your sole repeater.

Fourth, use e-mail & use club newsletters. The WPA Public Information Officer, Pat N3LWV & her husband, Allegheny County EC N3DOK, do an excellent job of getting the word out on the WPA e-mail lists. And if you get the word out to the club newsletter editors in time, your event and your needs get publicity in print – something not easy to forget.

Fifth, when you make your plea, make your point. Don’t read on the ARES net how worthy and noble the cause is from the slick PR pamphlet. They’re ALL worthy causes. You tune out your audience if you spend 10 minutes telling us why the PVGP raises money for autistic kids – we already know that. Tell us what you need, how many of us you need, when you need us, for how long you need us. We’ll be there.

And finally, make sure that people we’re helping out thank the volunteers – not just the hams – you gave up their afternoon to pull off the event. Sometimes those organizers forget to do that, because

Minutes, Club Meeting, March 11th, 1999

Submitted by Steve Lane W3SRL, Vice President/Secretary

Called to order at 19:10 Hours local time.

Moment of silence for Silent Keys

Minutes of 11 February 1999 Meeting were read and approved.

Secretary’s report by W3SRL

Treasurer’s report – N3RDV. Hamfest showed a modest profit.

VE Report – AA3FI. VE Session on April 15th.

Repeater – W3SRL / N3RNX In PL all the time due to interference.

Contests – BreezeShooters Groundwave logs due by March 15.

(N3UE). Field Day to be at Mineral Beach. Get ideas to KQ3DX.

Hamfest – W3SRL Overall sales/attendance down, national trend.

President – WN3VAW & KQ3DX to attend the WPA Section Club President’s workshop. We are up for some kind of award.

Old Business – N3SH situation still under investigation by the FCC.

The parties involved have 30 days to answer in writing as to their actions.

New Business – None.

Good of the Order – WN3VAW: Beware of viruses received by email. AA3FI got hit hard. N3ZNI: FYI networks still offers \$15 web access to club members.

Adjourned at 20:50. Presentation by KE3XB on HF Packet & HF Digital modes followed.

This report condensed from the actual minutes of the club meeting on 11 March 1999. They are respectfully submitted by Steve Lane, W3SRL Club Secretary.

“There is an aspect in this hobby for everyone.
Let them enjoy it!”

John Rodgers N3MSE
Assistant Section Manager, ARRL WPA Section
At the 1999 WPA President’s Conference

we’ve helped out for so long that we get taken for granted. It just takes one or two perceived brush-offs to almost guarantee that next year, your event won’t find any help.

Don’t let them make this mistake: Years ago, there was a Skating Championship at the Civic Arena, with practices there and at the Monroeville Mall skating rink. (If memory serves, it was connected to picking the members of the next Winter Olympic skating team) Then Allegheny County EC Otto Schuler K3SMB was asked to provide ARES members for communications at both sites for logistics, security, and to call for help. The catch? Each ham would have had to work 8-12 hours each day, gratis. No meal provided, pay for your own transportation, and for your own ticket to get into the arena, but you would not be allowed to watch any part of the event. AND we weren’t going to be allowed to tell anyone that we helped out, nor would we get any credit for helping. I guess the work was it’s own reward? Surprisingly, there were no takers for this offer, and the organizers ended up having to rent commercial HT’s.

A little legwork, a little common sense, and you can pull off a really nice communications team for your event. Just don’t expect the event itself to be enough of a draw. They’re all worthy causes.

Hamfest of the Americas – 1999

Greg Babin KQ3DX

Sun. Blue Skies. The Beach. Temperatures in the mid-80's. This was the setting for the 1999 Hamfest of the Americas, also known as the ARRL South Florida Convention, and more commonly as the Miami Hamfest.

I had the opportunity to escape to Miami from the winter doldrums here in Pittsburgh, and I must say that this was quite an impressive hamfest, complete with many different forums. The manufacturers were out in full force displaying their wares, (Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, MFJ, and others), a great flea market with lots of goodies; in short it was a teaser of things to come at Dayton '99. This was an all indoor hamfest, with approximately 900-1000 flea market tables full of test equipment, boat anchors, parts, and just about anything else you would expect to see on a table at a show. There were quite a few computer vendors too, replete with great deals on computers, software, and accessories.



It is a two-day event, held the first weekend in February, at the Dade-Miami Convention center near the airport, and is considered to be one of the biggest hamfests of the year. Many hams from all over the world attend, (especially from Central and South America) so it is truly an event global in nature. I did not have the opportunity to attend any of the forums, but they are along the types held at Dayton. There was a DX forum, an FCC forum, a CW forum and others that appeal to just about anyone's taste. As for the flea market, there were quite a lot of tables full of goodies, ranging from antique radios, such as Collins, Hallicrafters, and Heathkit, to the newer stuff we commonly see such as offerings from Kenwood and Yaesu. Lots of test equipment too, parts, and of course off-the-wall stuff that you will see only at hamfests.

I would peg attendance at approximately 6,000-8,000, so again it is a pretty big event; not as big as Dayton, but this hamfest is growing in popularity every year. Quite a few vendors were there, too many to mention here, but I must say I was impressed with the caliber of this show.

What can I say about Miami itself? Lots of good restaurants, beautiful hotels, South Beach, the Art-Deco District with its many beautiful hotels (its like walking back into the 1940's), things to do,



the beach, warm weather (the sky was blue every day I was there, which was 5 days).

So, if you are looking for a place to escape winter for a few days, and would like to include ham radio as a part of your vacation, consider dropping the YL (or the OM) and the kids at the beach and head down to the Miami Hamfest. For more information, check out their website at: www.hamboree.org, I think you'll find this to be a great hamfest, one to put you in the mood for Dayton, and will help take your mind off of winter, if only for a little while.

Next year: Orlando Hamcation?



MiniProp Updates

Jeff Pawlan jpawlan@ieee.org via the DX-List DX Reflector

ONLY those who ALREADY own version 2.5 of MiniProp Plus by W6EL may obtain a FREE upgrade by sending an email request directly to Shel. You should send your serial number in the email. He will then email you a zipped file of the recently compiled version that will work on all faster machines.

DO NOT send him an email asking to purchase a copy if you don't already own it. He will not be selling any more. The business is closed. The email address for Shel is w6el@arrl.net

K3A Special Event Station



To commemorate Altoona's sesquicentennial in 1999, and in conjunction with the Altoona Railroader's Museum "Horn & Whistle Day," the Horseshoe Radio Club will operate a special event station under the call of K3A the weekend of May 15-16 from the Altoona Railroader's Museum. The operating frequencies will be in the General portion of 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters SSB.

Volunteers are needed to operate this event. Contact Ted Holland WB3AVD for further information.

— Horseshoe ARC Newsletter

Name Change for the League?

Kay Craigie WT3P, ARRL Atlantic Division Director

The ARRL's Executive Committee has been tasked by the Board with developing a proposal to change the name of the League, to make it clear to non-hams and served agencies what our organization is about: Amateur Radio.

This does not mean a name change is a done deal. A study was done in 1992, but no action was taken. This does not mean that message relaying is on the junk pile... there is no need for emergency communicators to get mad. And no one is under the impression that a name change would make all ham radio's problems go away like waving a magic wand.

Would a name change insult the memory of founder Hiram Percy Maxim W1AW? Apparently not. In 1914, he wrote a letter to the president of the Radio Club of Hartford, including the following sentence: "Now what I want to do is get you and Tuska together some time, within the next day or two, and organize the AMERICAN AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE." (From *Spark to Space*, 1989, page 33)

Why did the founders choose "American Radio Relay League" instead of what Maxim wrote in this letter? History doesn't say, but a fair guess is that relay of formal message traffic was THE thing, other than technical experimentation, that hams did in those days. Diversity came later.

Intelligent arguments can be made for and against a name change, and there are several viewpoints on changing the name that merit discussion.

Here are some of the options:

1. *Keep the existing name.* If it isn't broken, don't fix it.
2. *Change the name to something with the phrase "Amateur Radio" in it.* "American Amateur Radio League" is an obvious possibility that even has the fingerprints of The Old Man upon it.
3. *Keep the existing name but add an official sub-title or tag-line* which would appear on all our formal literature and publications, to clue in the uninitiated. The result would be something along the lines of "The American Radio Relay League, Inc. — The National Society for Amateur Radio."

Please encourage all League members to think about these alternatives and any others they may think of. Send your opinions and reasons to Director Kay Craigie WT3P, wt3p@arrl.org.

DX News Briefs

April 14th, 1999 marks the 40th anniversary of the Incorporation of the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA). To commemorate this event, the SONRA DX Group will be operating a special event on April 14, 1999 from our club station, **VO1AA**, from 0000 - 2230 UTC April 14, 1999. Operation will be on 160 through 10 meters and 2 meters, operating modes SSB and CW (Depending upon who's operating :) There will be a certificate available to any eligible contact upon receipt of an SASE.

To receive your certificate, please send your QSL card with a self addressed envelope big enough to take an unfolded 8.5x11 inch sheet of paper and sufficient return postage to:

SONRA DX Group	or	Paul J. Piercey VO1HE
Box 23099		40 Mt. Cashel Rd.
St. John's, NF A1B 4J9		St. John's, NF A1A 1X7
Canada		Canada

— Paul J. Piercey VO1HE/VO2HE, vo1he@rac.ca

The **TX8DX** multi-multi operation during the 1999 CQ WPX contest was from New Caledonia (FK). QSL via VK4FW.

— Eric Esposito FK8GM-FK5C-FK5M esporic@canl.nc

The **VP5N** multi-single operation during the CQ WPX was by Matt IK2SGC and Conrad IK2SFZ. They were active from March 24 to April 5 from Whitby North Caicos as VP5/IK2SGC and VP5/IK2SFZ. QSL manager is IK2SAI. QSL cards will be delivered via the bureau after you e-mail request at ik2sai@amsat.org or via packet ik2sai@ik2hdg.ilom.ita.eu for a fast answer, via the bureau or direct to IMCO P.O.Box 99 20101 Milan Italy.

— IK2SGC and IK2SFZ

There's a new DX website named **DX-Central** and you can find it at <http://www.dx-central.com>. The site was designed with the DXer in mind. It is completely interactive and 100% database driven. The creators hope that it will be of value to anyone interested in DXing.

— Kelly Jones KE9KD kjones@sullivan1.com

JH8PHT is currently QRV as **9G5DX**. Kazuo has a one year license and a job there. He is also trying to get permission to operate from Yemen **7O** but reports it is very difficult to get the license for security reasons. QSL direct to his new home address:

Kazuo Takasaki, 410-110-807 Hazawa-Cho, Kanagawa-Ku, Yokhama, 221-0863, Japan.

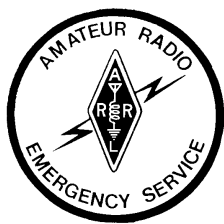
QTH Photos available at <http://www.ne.jp/asahi/tgc/dxers/>

— JH8PHT/9G5DX jh8pht@cup.com

Bruce, **WD4NGB**, just worked ZV0SB for DXCC Country Number 322, qualifying him for the Honor Roll on 10m Mixed. He is believed to be the **first Technician-Plus amateur to qualify for the DXCC Honor Roll**. Check out his web page for more information, <http://www.qsl.net/wd4ngb/4.htm>. And congratulations Bruce!

— Jim Nipper K4PYT jnipper@southeast.net

What do 500 Blue, 86 Red, 27 Green & A.A. have in common?
Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix
17th Annual Race Weekend July 17 & 18, 1999
Benefits Autism Society of Pittsburgh & Allegheny Valley School



Allegheny County ARES News

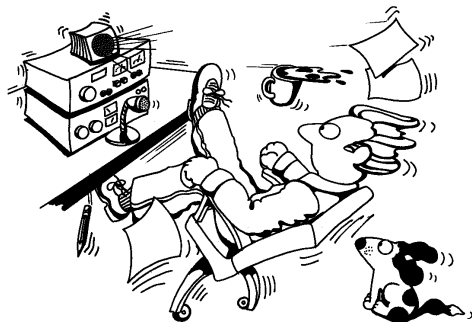
Bob Ferrey Jr. N3DOK,
EC, Allegheny County

The new Allegheny County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Web Site is now up and running. The URL is <http://www.ares.pgh.pa.us/>

Information about upcoming ARES events in and around Allegheny County will be available here.

Allegheny County ARES sponsors a mail list. You may subscribe to the mail list by sending e-mail to majordomo@lists.webstation.net and placing the words "Subscribe ARES" in the body of the e-mail.

You will receive a return e-mail confirming your registration. This will be a two-way list -- you may post questions for the good of all and -- information about upcoming events will also be set out.



Mailing Label Codes

Starting with this newsletter, you'll see a new 4 character code on the mailing label. Here's what it means:

- 1999: Current WASH Member, paid in full. Thanks from all of us!
- 1998: We didn't get your renewal yet. If you're not going to renew, let us know. Otherwise, please send it in today, or we'll be dropping you off the rolls & mailing list very soon. And we really don't want to do that.
- 1997: This is your last newsletter. Please renew. We don't want to drop you either. Honest!
- COMP: Complimentary issue to friends of WASH, and to those who we'd like to invite to meetings & events (and consider joining us). If we've heard you on one of the club affiliated repeaters recently, you're getting this issue as a thank you & welcome!
- CLUB: Newsletter Exchange issue to one of our neighboring clubs. If we're not on your newsletter mailing list, we'd like to be! And if we're sending it to the wrong person, let us know!
- ARRL: Complimentary issue to our WPA ARRL staff, and selected ARRL Atlantic Division & ARRL Headquarters staff.
- FCC: Good morning, Mr. Hollingsworth. Sir.

*"Managers sit around and wait for things to happen.
Leaders make things happen."*

Bernie Fuller N3EFN

1999 UPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon

Courtesy of Bob Ferrey Jr. N3DOK, EC, Allegheny County

The 13th Annual UPMC Health System/City of Pittsburgh Marathon featuring thousands of runners who traverse over 26 miles through the streets of Pittsburgh, will be held on Sunday, May 2, 1999. This is actually multiple races spaced minutes apart.

Communications support will again be provided by Amateur Radio Operators utilizing FM Repeaters and FM Simplex modes of operation. Amateurs will be on foot, on bicycles, on buses and standing all along the course to provide Race Officials with up-to-the-minute information about runners' positions, medical emergencies and other vital "traffic."

At least 150 hams are needed for the Marathon. It is by far the largest Public Service effort by Pittsburgh area and Western Pennsylvania hams during the year. If you hold a valid FCC Amateur Radio License (Novice through Extra Class) you are invited and encouraged to participate.

To volunteer or for more information, go to the UPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon Volunteer Amateur Radio Operator On-Line Application Form, <http://hometown.aol.com/k3fh/page3.html>. Or you can e-mail Bill K3YQA, k3yqa@aol.com if you do not have web access.

1999 MS Walk-a-Thon

Mike Tobias N3NSG, Event Coordinator

The MS Walk-A-Thon will be held on April 18, 1999. Sponsored by the National MS Society, it is one of similar walks throughout the country on this day and it is a major fund raiser for them.

Walkers can choose a 5 or 10 mile course that begins at Station Square and ends at the Point where food and drinks are then given to each of the participants. In addition there is a 1 mile course for those people that need to use wheel chairs.

I have been involved in this event for several years. It was one of the first public service events that I was involved with and it's a great starter event for those hams with no experience with this.

I would like to have between 15 and 20 hams. I position them at various locations along the route, usually at rest and water stops as well as certain important corners where the walkers might get confused on the route (I.e. where the 5 mile course splits from the 10 mile course.) In addition, I assign one operator in each of the sweep vans (last year we had three) and one operator acts as net control. Operators should be prepared for any kind of weather. Last year it was raining. Other years its been chilly.

Registration begins at 8:00. The operators should be on station no later than 7:30. The walk begins at 9:00 and should be over by 1:00. Some operators can leave well before this as final walkers pass their location.

To sign up, call me at: Home 412-422-8803, Work 412-351-2363 or e-mail N3NSG at dipcraft@dipcraft.com.

SWPA DXH&PDS Annual Meeting

Larson E. Rapp III K3IOU

*[In fond memory of the original DXH&PDS tales,
and with apologies to Rod Newkirk W9BRD]*

The membership of the South Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society slowly assembled in Paul Long Hall for their annual meeting the first day of April. All were thankful of the upswing of band openings, and that their probation had finally ended after last year's epic struggle with the now defunct Friends of Old List-Lizards Society (FOOLS). The meeting was quickly brought to order by this year's Chairperson, Annette Knerd.

After the reading of the minutes and the confirmations of where the bodies were buried (and why they haven't been moved yet... those pesky police, you know, and the DA is still investigating), the Special Guest of the Evening, Lirpa Sloof of local DX cluster fame, strode towards the podium. Young Donny Miller, the know-it-all, stood up trying to impress the multitude:

*There once was a ham from Nantucket
Who told the FCC to go...*

A chorus of boos followed by a Wouf Hong administered by The Respected Old Timer put a stop to that old hacksaw and scattered the lad's wits to the floor. The scraggly voice of the ROT burst forth:

*In my day when chasing the rare
You had to put watts on the air
In pileups galore
We burned coal by the score
And we beat back the crowd fair and square.*

A flying Rettysnitch missed him by a matter of inches – he always had good reflexes – and it knocked cold half the row behind him as he ducked for cover.

Yoshi Yagiuda, the Point Park College student from Japan, piped up with his own contribution

*First snow, then silence.
This thousand dollar rig dies
so beautifully.*

Stunned silence momentarily filled the hall (except, of course, from the oblivious Lirpa). Several WW2 vets, on recovering their few senses began screaming "No haiku! No haiku!" and started pitching their Iron City cans & bottles at him. Several then chased Yoshi into the outer room, where, he in turn introduced them to the correct procedures for making sushi.

*The young whipper-snapper was bold
When he worked DX 'til pileups went cold
It's not skill, no siree!
His high voice is the key
The YL-like DX voice of spun gold.*

Lirpa began expounding on the history of electronic DX'ing, how great the Packet Cluster was for finding the DX without having to spend futile

moments listening to the bands. Romeo "The West Coast Kid" (with the California "kilowatt" that kept half of Duquesne Light employed) interrupted:

*What's the sport in a barrel of fish
I can shoot whenever I wish?
DX nets? Not for me!
I'll proclaim with a gleam
That those weak little signals I'll squish!*

The kid suddenly had a transcendental experience with that Rettysnitch, now wielded by the ROT, as friends of each joined battle. Meanwhile Lirpa continued to blather on about how he could tie the cluster into his computer and radio so that he could work the DX automatically via his private UHF repeater, all without direct human intervention. Lovely lass Erin Ghobrah voiced her contribution from the fray:

*DX nets are going to stay
For they give us a clear spot each day
To hear DX calls
Without pileup walls
And tell DX cops go away!*



As the floor fighting intensified, Lirpa, oblivious to all, talked about the future, the Virtual Pile-Up, which would permit the Deserving to work all the DX they wanted, even make the Honor Roll, all on the Internet with nary an RF signal to be radiated. At this point, as more Wouff Hongs and other Awful Weapons went flying past, the Technical Committee rolled out his sample VPU system from behind the curtain.

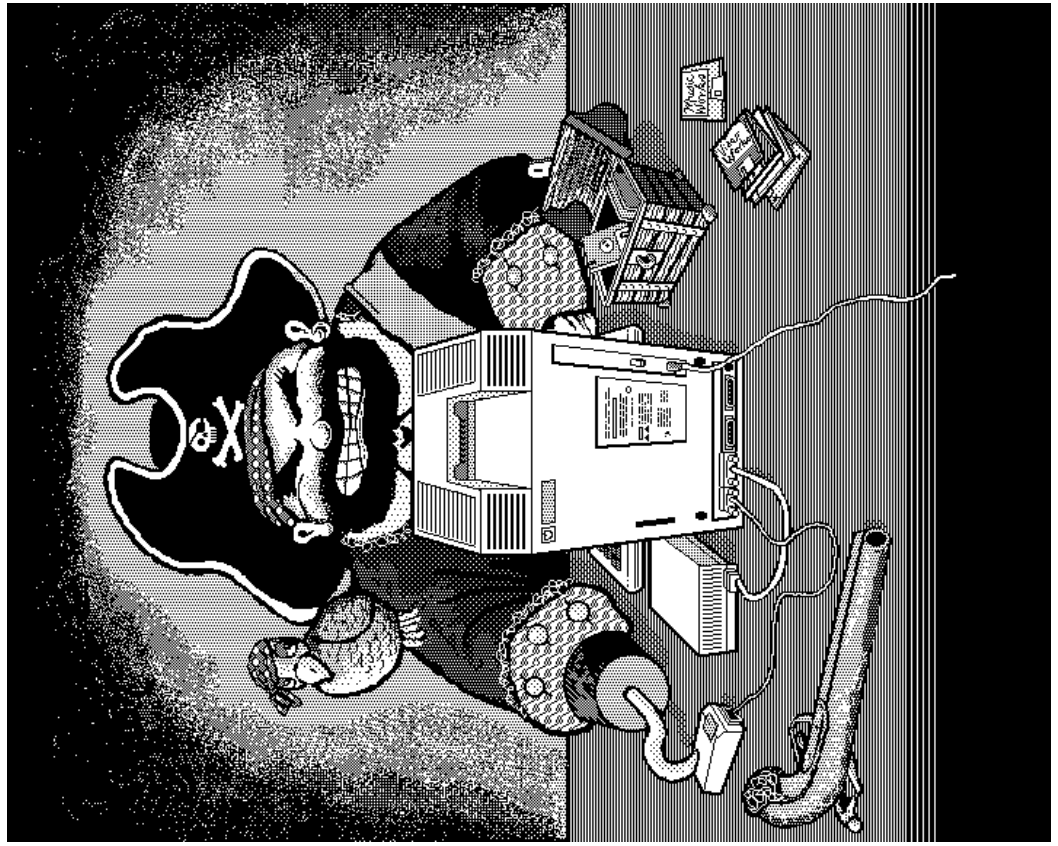
*There's plenty of room on the bands,
For all different types of good hams.
Don't argue with lids
They're like little kids
Go out, have fun -- yes you can!*

As the pandemonium on the floor burst into the usual full scale riot, Lirpa, oblivious to all, powered up. His demo was going well until the dreaded former East German call "Y2K" appeared on the virtual screen. The system failed spectacularly as the smoke was let out. Screaming "But... the Germans don't use Y2 anymore!" from the sparks and flames, the Tech Committee's rewiring sent Lirpa to the Virtual Heaven he no doubt virtually wished he deserved.



Inside This Issue:

- 47th Annual Groundwave Contest Results!
 - 1999 Field Day Plans!
 - Hamfest of the Americas Report!
 - Name Change for the ARRL in store?
 - Marathon & MS Walkathon Info!
- Much, much more... of course!



No, no, not THOSE Pirates!
WASH Pittsburgh Pirates Game May 1st!

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



The WASHRag
Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
3505 Rosalia Avenue
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317