

And the nominees are:

- Washrag
 - Washline
 - Hotwire
 - Laundry Bag
 - Dirty Laundry
 - Nuts & Bolts
- Which one do YOU think should be the new name for the WASH club newsletter? Bring your idea or be ready to pick from one of these at our next meeting!

4th South Hills Hamfest: One Month & Counting!!!

As this is being written, it's exactly one month and one day before the 4th Annual South Hills Hamfest... less than that by the time you read this! I'm both very excited & very nervous... but I'm really looking forward to another hamfest again!

Over 1000 direct mail flyers have gone out to area hams. Table sales have started to pick up, & it looks like we're going to have another sell-out, so if you want a table, NOW is the time to call W3SRL & get your table deposit in.

N3YPB stepped forward to take charge of the kitchen (thanks Lin!), but she still needs a few extra hands. We need to go over the highway signs and be ready to get them in place Saturday evening and Sunday AM. And as always, parking detail and ticket sales need all the help they can get.

Steve needs to hear from you now. The more help, the easier it is on everyone. This is our chance to really show off and shine before our fellow Radio Amateurs.

Let's plan to improve on our Hamfest's good reputation & make this the best one yet!

AND... don't forget to work the annual *Breezeshooter's Groundwave* contest Saturday night! Invite all of your contacts to come to the Hamfest to compare notes & brag a bit!

73, Ron WN3VAW, President

Wireless Association of South Hills

AMTOR, PACKET, PACTOR, CLOVER... HF RTTY Anyone?



Not just any award winning shack photo, but KE3XB snapped this photo as he was about to go jaunting off on HF digital modes again.

Story on Page 7, and information about the first WASH Digital net on Page 6.

Next Meeting February 11, 1999 Pre-Hamfest Meeting February 25, 1999

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills will be Thursday, February 11th, 7:00 PM, at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church, on Clifton Road in Bethel Park.

Our guest speaker is Paul Jordan NP2JF, demonstrating soldering tips & techniques (as a prelude to our upcoming club kit building project!).

We will also have a special Pre-Hamfest meeting (it'll be a short one!) on Thursday, February 25th, at 7:00 PM at the church, to go over any last minute details for the 4th Annual South Hills Hamfest. Keep an ear on 146.955 for any last-minute changes to this special meeting.

Talk-in on the 146.955 N3RN/R Repeater. All radio amateurs & other interested guests are, of course, invited! See you there!

Inside this issue:

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Y2K... It's all True!	4
Your Technician Accent	4 - 5
A 20 Meter HamStick Yagi	6
KE3XB & the new WASH Digital Net	7
Hamfest Flyer	8

Schedule of Events

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

- Feb 7th: Nancy N3ZEN
- Feb 14: Greg KQ3DX
- Feb 21: Gerry K3BZW
- Feb 28: Mark N3RDV

- Feb 1: Remember! The Breezeshooters Net moves to 28.480 MHz starting tonight.
- Feb 27: Annual Breezeshooters 10 Meter Groundwave Contest, from 8 PM to 1 AM. Contact N3UE for information packet
- Feb 28: You have to ask? The 4th Annual South Hills Hamfest, Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall, Rt 88 Castle Shannon. See the flyer on page 8...

February 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 BreezeShooters Net moves to 28.480 MHz	2 Groundhog Day Punxsawtawny Phil saw no shadow... spring is just around the corner...	3 PETA protests continued inhumane exploitation of groundhogs	4 WACOM Meeting	5	6 NA Sprint Phone NH QSO Party DE QSO Party VT QSO Party MN QSO Party
7	8 "Bum of the Month" Lunch, Rocky's on Route 51 at the Neville Island Bridge	9	10 NHARC Meeting 7:30 PM Northland Public Library	11 WASH Meeting 7 PM John McMillan Presbyterian Church	12	13 Harrisburg RAC Hamfest NA Sprint CW
14 Valentine's Day You did buy her (or him) flowers, didn't you?	15 President's Day	16 SCARC Meeting 8:00 PM at W3KWH	17 Ash Wednesday	18 Unofficial Breezeshooters Dinner, 7PM, China Buffet on Rt 88 near South Park	19	20 ARRL DX Contest CW
21	22 This space intentionally left blank.	23	24 NHARC Activity Night, 7:30 PM Northland Public Library	25 Hamfest Meeting 7 PM John McMillan Presbyterian Church	26	27 CQ WW 160 Phone Breezeshooters Groundwave 8 PM to 1 AM
28 4th Annual South Hills Hamfest	Post-hamfest recovery day		Did you know there is no full moon this month? January & March 1999 both have Blue Moons...			

WASH 1999 OFFICERS

Executive Committee:

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

Standing Committees:

KB3DIG & N3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL
VE Team Liason Bob Sanford AA3FI
WASH Net Manager Don Vollant N3KEH
South Hills Hamfest
1999 Chairman Steve Lane W3SRL
2000 Chairman (Open)
Field Day 99 Chairman (Open)
PA QSO Party Chairman Don Vollant N3KEH
WASH Chief Operator
ARRL DX Contest (Open)
CQ WPX Contest (Open)
Club Repeaters: N3RNX/R 146.955-
W3SRL/R 442.550+
(Both with PL tone of 131.8)

WASH 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 Informal Net on 28.469 MHz. All radio amateurs are welcome!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The Mariner" (new name pending) is the Official Newsletter of the **Wireless Association of South Hills**.

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

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

The **Wireless Association of South Hills** was founded in 1993 as the original South Hills 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 or it's actions in any way shape or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of the N3RNX Repeater System for permitting the **Wireless Association of South Hills** & 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 AA3FI [E-Mail: sanfordb@access.hky.com or (724) 356-4020]

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**.

Results. VE Test Session on Thursday, January 21:

Total Candidates:	12
Exam Elements Administered:	23
New Technicians	4
New Technician Plus:	2
New Amateur Extra:	1
CSCE's Issued:	8
Total VE's Present:	10

Our congratulations to the successful candidates & our thanks for their time & efforts to all on the WASH VE Team.



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, friends, guests & their families to go as a group. More details on ticket prices & ordering information in next month's newsletter!

FCC Issues New WASH Club Call!

On January 13, 1999, the FCC issued the club callsign KB3DIG to the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. The vanity application for WA3SH is pending as of deadline.

And no, we haven't given up on recovering the stolen N3SH club callsign. That FCC investigation is also still pending.

Meeting Rescheduling

As a result of winter weather, for the first time in the history of the club, the January 14th meeting had to be cancelled & rescheduled.

In the future, meetings cancelled due to weather will be re-scheduled for the following week, normally Thursday. If there is a VE Test scheduled that day, the meeting will be the following Wednesday.

It's a pain, and we regret that — but we have to put your safety ahead of that small inconvenience!

Jack Layton W9UK's presentation on broadcasting has been tentatively rescheduled for our March 11, 1999 meeting night. We're looking forward to it!

ARRL members are now able to sign up via the Members Only Web Site (<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/>) for the League's new E-Mail Forwarding Service.

The forwarding--or alias--service is available at no additional charge for ARRL members. It will provide members with a uniform "callsign@arrl.net" e-mail address that remains the same even if the user changes e-mail service providers. Details are available on the Members Only Web Site at <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.html>. The service, which started February 1st, does not affect usability of your original e-mail address, which will continue to be the one reflected in outgoing messages. (Courtesy of the ARRL Letter)

The ZL9CI Campbell Island DXpedition went QRT at 22:12 Z on January 24th, setting a new DXpedition record of 96,004 QSOs.

Congratulations for a job well done!

Don't Forget! 1999 Wireless Association of South Hills Dues are now DUE!
If you haven't already, please fill out your renewal
& send it in to N3RDV today! Thanks!

True Stories of the Y2K Challenged Your Technician Accent...

And What to Do About It!

Jay Craswell WOVNE

Excerpted with permission from "This is True", copyright 1999 by Randy Cassingham KORCC.

For information on free e-mail subscriptions, see <http://www.thisistrue.com> or e-mail TrueInfo@thisistrue.com.

Y\$2K: Bank One Texas, testing to make sure their computers are ready for the transition to the year 2000, generated more than 2,000 dummy overdraft notices on real customer accounts. No problem: the computer handled the next-millennium dates just fine. Well, one problem: after the test, efficient employees dropped the notices into the mail, instead of into the trash. "We have apologized profusely" to anxious customers who called the bank after getting the notices, a bank spokesman said. "We've spent millions of dollars to make sure the Y2K problem doesn't exist at Bank One." (Reuters) *...And now everyone knows where that money came from.*

Y2K 4UK A-OK: British Parliament's Environment, Transport and Regions Committee has recommended that airlines which have not adequately prepared for the "year 2000" bug should be banned from the country's airports "at or around the millennium". Besides safety issues, they say inadequate systems on those planes might cause delays for the better-prepared airliners. But China has a better idea to help ensure its airliners are ready: the government has ordered the chief executives of all Chinese air transport companies to be in the air on one of their own planes as the calendar changes to January 1, 2000. (Reuters, 2) *...But "just in case," the planes will all be cruising in Britain's airspace.*

Y2K MINUS A FEW: Despite a generous deadline extension, the State of Florida's Bureau of Historic Preservation has not been able to produce a list of the "2,000 greatest residents in Florida history" to honor at the millennium. Nominees must be dead, and must have "made a significant contribution to the culture or welfare of the state during their lifetime." So far, only a "few hundred" nominations for the honor have been made, says coordinator Kathleen Slesnick. (Reuters) *...Currently living "great Floridians" are thus well advised to refuse any food or drink offers from Ms Slesnick.*

Y2K+1: The world is too distracted by the Y2K bug to realize that the new millennium does not start in the year 2000, complains author Arthur C. Clarke. Clarke, who wrote "2001: A Space Odyssey" and invented the concept of the geostationary communications satellite, points out the new millennium doesn't start until January 1, 2001, since there was no year zero. "We'll have had only 99 years of this century by January 1, 2000," he points out. (Reuters) *...Unfortunately, people aren't interested in logic or common sense, they're only interested in a great excuse to party for a year.*

To quote from "Your Novice Accent", the Classic November 1956 QST article by W6DTY, "People speak a language with the same accent as those with whom they live and work. New hams pick up habits and operating procedures of the gang they chew the fat with". How true this still is. I feel that the large influx of Technician licensees has created some of the same problems experienced by Novice operators of the '50s. I hope that people won't see me as finding fault with my fellow hams. Please take it in the spirit it was intended. It was prompted by my wife's (NOKJH) honest question: "Tell me what you think is correct procedure?"

FM and Repeater Procedure

"KD9XYZ KD9XYZ KD9XYZ this is KE9ABC calling and listening, bye."

"KD9XYZ KD9XYZ KD9XYZ here is KE9ABC are you around Fred?"

"Negative contact, KE9ABC clear."

On FM a single call is all you need. I suppose in some rare cases the person being called is operating their receiver in the scan mode and won't catch the more acceptable "KD9XYZ, KE9ABC." And there is no reason to throw in "negative contact", "clear" and so on. Everyone who can hear the repeater knows quite well that you have had "negative contact". I think habit arises from people who spend too much time listening to police scanners and not enough time listening to proper Amateur Radio procedures. Being "clear" on the police band is a signal that you are free for the next assignment. On Amateur Radio if you are not in contact with a station it is assumed you are "clear". Let's ditch the Highway Patrol procedures and extra yaking. It sounds silly.

Endless Calling

You will often hear the same long calls repeated over and over. This is unnecessary. On FM your signal is copiable, or it isn't. As my friend Tom says, "If you weren't there you didn't miss anything". If you call and no one responds they will rarely change their minds two seconds later. Most of the time a general call should be as simple as "KDOYXZ listening". Once in a while I'll say, "CQ 2 WOVNE". This gives some people the giggles, but everyone immediately understands that I am calling any station.

(continued on page 5)

PIN COLLECTORS - The Mariana Island DX Association has MIDXA lapel pins available on their web page at <http://www.guam.net/pub/midxa/special/pins.html>. If you collect pins or would like to help a small island ham club, please visit the page. While you are there, click the MIDXA logo at the bottom of the page to visit the MIDXA home page. You will find 80 pages and almost 400 pictures of hams and their stations, club activities, and some island pictures from the Mariana islands. We also have a QSL gallery of old and new QSL cards, and Digital Voice Keyer software for Windows 95 that you can download. Enjoy your visit and thanks for taking the time. --- Jim Kehler KH2D, President, MIDXA

(continued from Page 4)

Listen!

One rude practice is turning to a new frequency (or flipping on the power switch) and talking without listening. Listen first! Before you pick up the microphone for the first time, spend hours, even days, listening. Learn the proper procedures on your local repeater before jumping in.

Q Codes, Spelling, RST, and The Weight of Correct Operating

"QSL your hamster died, QSL on the good old days, Bob. Yeah, QSL on your new antenna. You're eight pounds now, Bob. I suppose you could get a linear for that FM rig and pushme 9 or 10 pounds, huh? The handle here is Frank. F-R-A-N-K".

The dreaded Q codes are making another stab at polluting the phone bands. Q codes are meant for CW. This habit of "QSLing" everything is a little like the idle character on a teletype circuit. Please assume that everything is received unless otherwise specified. It sure makes for tedious listening when every single thing said is repeated. If you must acknowledge a transmission, you don't need to repeat yourself over and over. "Good copy, Bob" is short and to the point.

When words must be spelled, they should only be spelled phonetically. For example V, B, E, G, D, and C all sound pretty much the same. That's why phonetics were created. Spelling your name on an FM repeater (even phonetically) is questionable at best. The exception might be if your name is truly unusual, or if your signal is marginal into the system.

Your handle? When I heard this for the first time, I thought, what the heck is this goofball talking about? Sorry, I have knobs on my radio, but no handles. The most important lesson is to speak plainly, just as you would in person. When you meet someone new at the radio club you don't ask them for their handle. You ask for their name.

Signal reports should follow the RST (Readability, Signal Strength, and Tone) system. Not in "pounds", "feet", or "shoe leather". You will hear old-timers saying "Q5" once in a while (historical note: The readability or intelligibility scale goes from 1 to 5 - see QRK in any list of signals). But for most voice operations, RST works best. Of course, you drop the Tone figure unless you hear some unusual noise on their signal (such as generator whine). Some stations just give you the signal strength in S units. "Bob, you're S8 now". Others provide the readability and signal strength by saying "You were 5 by 8 on your

last transmission". If someone specifically asks for a report, it is important that you give an accurate report. My minority opinion is that DXers and contesters who give 59 for everything (while asking for several repetitions of "all after crackkkle-spffftt") is a waste of time. If you give a signal report, give a real one.

Phonetics

Cute nonstandard phonetics are questionable at best. My wife sometimes tells people her call is November Zero Keep Jay Hopping. Kind of silly, but it might help some folks remember her call sign. The line is crossed when you become vulgar.

IDing

"KD9XYZ this is KE9ABC for ID. Yeah, Bob, we got our ticket back when you had to memorize the license manual. Our transmitter is a GadZooks 1001. We like to operate with our feet hanging out the window".

"For ID"? Isn't it understood that you are identifying? And the royal "we" is heard so often that "we" have to comment. Who is this other half of the "we"/"our" in your transmissions? When I was a young squirt and picked up this bit of silliness I was asked by one of the old-timers who was this "we"? Me and the mouse in my pocket?

Endless Signoffs

"Well, Bob, may the good Lord take a liking to you and yours. Have a good day today and a better day tomorrow. We will be clear on your final and I wish you 73s and a goodnight. This is KDOXYZ clear and QRT".

Nice sentiments (I do hope the good Lord takes a liking to me), but let's lose the canned "CB" jazz. The point is that these sign-off benedictions drag out an otherwise nice conversation. 73s? Best Regardses? Is this a form of stuttering? I won't belabor the fact that 73 is CW shorthand since everyone (even me) uses it, but let's use it correctly.

If you avoid some of the operating pitfalls we've just discussed, I guarantee you more contacts. Best of all, you'll rapidly earn the respect of your fellow amateurs.

This article, written by James 'Jay' Craswell, WOVNE, appeared in the FM & Repeaters section of the April, 1998 issue of QST, published by the American Radio Relay League, and edited by Jay Mabey, NUOX, Editor, The ARRL Repeater Directory.

Our thanks to ARRL for permission to reprint this article.

Your handle?

Sorry, I have knobs on my radio, but no handles. When you meet someone new at the radio club, you don't ask them their handle. You ask for their name.

A Three-Element Yagi Mini-Beam Using Hamsticks

Russ Wilson VE6VK, ve6vk@cadvision.com
Courtesy of the US Islands Web Site,
<http://www.eng.mu.edu/~usi/>

Rick NE8Z and I were having a very long discussion about mini-beams and credit for suggesting the use of hamsticks must go to Dr. Rick. I thought it was a great idea and well worth building one. I needed something light, easy to install and reasonably efficient with some directivity. Almost immediately I started building the boom and the feed point insulator and then ordered the hamsticks.

After lots of experimenting the results are shown below.

DESIGN CHART:

BOOM: 12 feet (365.76 cm) x 1-1/4"(3.175 cm) diameter aluminum tubing [4' sections, (121.92 cm)]

BOOM ELEMENT SPACING:

Driven Element to Director spacing = 5' 9" (175.25 cm)
Driven Element to Reflector spacing = 6' 3" (190.5 cm)

DIMENSIONS FROM BOOM TO TIP OF HAMSTICK ROD:

Reflector = 7' 6.5" (230 cm)
Driven Element = 7' 2" (218 cm)
Director = 6' 9" (205.5 cm)

DIMENSIONS OF HAMSTICK ROD (WHIP) FROM END OF HAMSTICK COIL:

Reflector = 3' 8.3" (112.5 cm)
Driven Element = 3' 3" (98.5 cm)
Director = 2' 10.4" (87.5 cm)

MEASURED IMPEDANCE (USING OMEGA BRIDGE)

= 48 ohms at 15 feet off the ground.

FEEDING = 1 wavelength of RG58U and a 1:1 balun

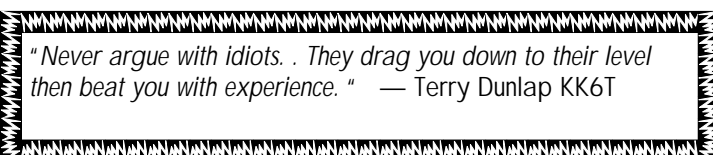
FREQUENCY COVERAGE = 14.070 to 14.295 flat

TOTAL WEIGHT (INCLUDING CARRYING TUBE) = 12 lbs.

Note: I color code my Hamsticks for ease of assembly.

CONSTRUCTION

The support for the mini-beam is 22 feet high and is constructed of telescoped aluminum. This support also has a 40M hamstick installed on the top utilizing an insulator and matching coil. The vertical uses the support, the beam, and boom for the ground plane. The base has to be matched to 52 ohms. Two coax cables are used, one for the beam and one for the vertical. The antennas are switched with a coax switch at the rig end. The vertical is tuned to 7.250 and if it is found necessary to QSY lower in frequency, a clip and extension is used as a capacity hat for the purpose.



More News Briefs

Ham radio software developer Brian Beezley, K6STI, has gone out of business. Beezley says he's dropping distribution and further software development as a result of the piracy of his RITTY radioteletype program.

He says an overseas ham broke the copy protection on a demo version of his program and posted the pirated version on the Internet. That prompted him to discontinue selling software altogether. "I've just had enough of it. I'm really quite disgusted and bitter," Beezley remarked. "I hate being stolen from." He said his software business was his main source of income, and he's not sure what he'll do next.

Dick Stevens, N1RCT, who runs the "All Things RTTY" Web site (<http://www.megalink.net/~n1rct/>) called it "a sad day." He has pulled all versions of RITTY from his site. Beezley said he'll sell RITTY "if somebody wants it" but he has no plans to offer support or further program enhancements.

Beezley had also developed five antenna programs, including the Yagi-optimizing program YO. He remains available only via the USPS at 3532 Linda Vista Dr, San Marcos, CA 92069. He no longer has e-mail service. (*Courtesy of the ARRL Letter*)

The first HF Digital Net of the Wireless Association of South Hills took place on Sunday, January 31st, 1999, at about 9:25 PM after the regularly scheduled 2 Meter net.

KE3XB served as net control, and check-ins included N3RDV (Mark), N3XI (Frank), and KQ3DX (Greg). We started on RTTY on 10M on 28.105 Mhz and continued on into PACTOR. All had great fun even with some initial technical difficulties.

The group agreed that this was a fun activity and that we should hold it on some sort of regular schedule. Initially we will try to hold it weekly and informally after the regular 2M net on Sundays. Eventually we may want to decrease or increase the frequency of the net, consider other bands. We all agreed to try as many modes as possible. Options will include RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, HF Packet and CLOVER. (*John Benitez KE3XB/ VK3FJY*)

The microphone on a sheriff's deputy's patrol car probably saved his life when he was shot during a 12 mile chase through East Pierce County, WA on January 2nd. A bullet tore through the hand of Sgt. Rick Adamson and lodged in the microphone he was holding inches from his mouth. "If he wasn't talking into the microphone, it would have hit his head." according to a Sheriff's Department spokesman.

The bullet was apparently a round from a 9 mm handgun, known for lots of penetration & damage. Now you know why GE mikes are so heavy!
(Tacoma Washington News Tribune, January 3, 1999, Pg. 1)
(thanks Mike Tanner WB5NLJ & Tony Petrucelli KE3ED)

HF Digital Communication Modes

John Benitez KE3XB / VK3FJY

I have over the past year been playing around with the HF Digital Modes. What exactly are these modes? Without getting technical (which I can't anyway) these modes depend on sending a combination of two tones via a computer, through a TNC (Terminal Node Connection) and eventually through a HF radio. The oldest digital mode is CW, which I will not address here. Radioteletype (RTTY)* is the next oldest and the simplest mode. Basically by typing simple text on the computer it transmits a combination of two audio tones through the radio (using Audio Frequency Shift Keying, or AFSK) which can be monitored by anyone. Any mistakes done at the keyboard are transmitted and can't be corrected. Also, any atmospheric or man-made noise may be interpreted by the receiving TNC as text tones and more errors could be introduced.

AMTOR (Amateur Teletype Over Radio) was developed next with some error connection. Two and only two stations can connect at a time, but the error correction helps in that each part of text data sent is acknowledged by the receiving station. If any parts are missing the sending station repeats the missed part.

The next mode I have used is PACTOR (Packet Teletype Over Radio) which is a fusion of packet and AMTOR. The nice difference with this mode is that if a part of a transmission is missed, the receiving station sends a "No acknowledge" signal and the transmitting station repeats that part. The nice change compared to AMTOR is that the receiving station may have caught part of the last text string and therefore "remembers" the good part. That means that the transmitting station has to just send the smaller missing pieces.

Transmitting power is important with these modes. As in any other mode one has to transmit at the lowest power needed to maintain communication. However, with RTTY and one type of AMTOR (FEC - more on this in the future) only 1/2 of the maximum transmitting power should be used. This is because these modes are considered 100% duty: the transmitter is ON all the time that you are transmitting. Therefore some burn up of some critical part could occur. With AMTOR (ARQ) and PACTOR 100% of available power can be used if needed.

I have already covered the general equipment needed above. In future articles I hope to review some of the specific available equipment and software. Other future articles will cover other modes that I haven't in this brief column: packet and CLOVER and G-TOR. I am looking for volunteers!

Please read the related article on page 6 of this newsletter on the first WASH ARC HF digital net held 1/31/99. It was very successful and used both RTTY and PACTOR modes. We are always looking for suggestions and we hope to have either a weekly or monthly net. For now we are going to try to have a

FCC Surprise Inspections!

The ARRL Letter... Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

FCC engineering and legal staff conducted unannounced Amateur Radio station inspections January 21 and 22 in North and South Carolina, reports FCC amateur enforcement honcho Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH.

"Commission personnel inspected the stations of John A. Abernethy, K4OKA, an Extra Class licensee in Hickory, North Carolina, and Richard Whiten, WB2OTK, a General Class licensee in Easley, South Carolina," Hollingsworth said.

In both visits, FCC officials were accompanied by local law enforcement personnel. Hollingsworth said both amateurs cooperated with the inspections, which lasted approximately two hours apiece. FCC officials said that both operators "were the subjects of many complaints about their operations on the 75 & 20 meter Amateur bands." The officials said the results of the inspections were "under review," and declined further comment.

Earlier this month, the FCC issued a stern warning to an Indian River County, Florida ham who, the FCC said, had been using the amateur airwaves to transmit information on, among other things, the credit reports, criminal records, and mortgage foreclosures of other hams and their families. "You have apparently made these disclosures and broadcasts for the purpose of deliberately and maliciously interfering with licensed Amateurs operating on those bands, and for harassment or perceived retaliation," said the letter, signed by Hollingsworth.

"We view this matter as extremely serious," he told the ARRL. Hollingsworth called the alleged operation "contrary to the purpose of Amateur Radio" and said that it "endangers the entire Amateur Radio frequency allocation internationally."

digital HF net every Sunday after the 2M regular net. Also, I hope to hold a demonstration of these modes at one of our upcoming WASH meetings so all interested parties can hear, ask questions, see the modes in operation and actually use the modes!

That's all for now. I need to go figure out a way to do PACTOR when I am traveling mobile.....

*RTTY from the old mechanical days through the computer era used a 5-bit teletype alphabet called Baudot (still in use today). The OT's remember using tube-type Terminal Units as analog-to-digital modulator/demodulators (the original modems) to push those old surplus teletypes as fast as the gears would move. The advent of the home PC put the 8-bit ASCII alphabet on the air, which ushered in all the new modes. But as fast & as quiet as digital RTTY modes are today... I miss the sounds & smells of a Model 13. — wn3vaw

Inside This Issue:

- 4th Annual South Hills Hamfest Flyer
- Build a 3 Element Hamstick Yagi
- WASH Digital Net
- Your Technician Accent

An Invitation to the Wireless Association of South Hills

I know you have heard of the BreezeShooters, the hams from Pittsburgh. And the BreezeShooters Hamfest at the Butler County Farm Show Grounds.

But, do you know that we sponsor another popular event, just in time to brighten your winter spirit? It's our **Ground Wave Contest**.

This year's Ground Wave Contest will start Saturday February 27th 1999 at 8:00 PM ET and finish at 1:00 AM.

Only Five hours & Only on the Ten Meter band.

It is a great fun event, please join us. The contest flyers are in the mail. If you did not receive one they are also available by contacting N3UE.

Don't forget, **work us when, we're on Ten**,
The BreezeShooters net is Monday evenings at 9:00 PM on 28.480 MHz!

I know that quite a few of the WASH Members are also BreezeShooters, and it would be nice to see YOU become active once again!

Good Luck in the contest.!

73, Ed Wolf, N3UE, President, BreezeShooters Inc.

c/o Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
3505 Rosalia Avenue
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317

Wireless Association of South Hills

