



WASHRAG

TM



Volume 1, Issue 6

June 1999

N3SH WA3SH

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

Wireless Association of South Hills

Field Day's Coming!

I'm making a list, and checking it twice of all the equipment that we will be using/need for our Field Day '99 soiree. A big thank you goes to Steve, W3SRL, Mark, N3RDV, Bill, W3VWH and Don, N3KEH for their contributions to the cause.

I have a sizable list of equipment put together, however, if you have anything you would like to loan us for the weekend, we would certainly appreciate it! As it stands right now, we have enough radios to run one V/UHF station and three HF stations. We could however, use a few more antennas for the HF radios and possibly a 432 MHz antenna. If you have one and are willing to loan it to the club for the weekend, let me know. Also we could use some extra coax cable and ladder line and extra batteries to power our radios.

Another thing we are short on at this time is OPERATORS! If you have plans on coming out to operate, let me know please. A special note to our No-Code Technician operators: please don't think that the only thing you will be able to operate is VHF and UHF. If you are interested in finding out what HF is all about, what propagation is, and what it feels like to talk to people all over the US, including Alaska, Hawaii and our possessions (and quite possibly, the rest of the world), come on down to Field Day; I guarantee that we WILL sit you down in front of an HF radio and show you how its done, if you're interested. We'll show you how to make QSO's and give you pointers on operating HF, if needed. Otherwise we'll let you loose to have some fun on whatever band you want to try, including VHF and UHF.

Another thing: Our Field Day shindig is open to ALL amateurs, whether or not they are members of the Wireless Association of South Hills. This includes members of other local clubs. All are welcome to attend. If you have a friend who is NOT a ham, but is considering becoming one, bring him/her along; we will be happy to show them what it is all about.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Next Meeting June 10, 1999

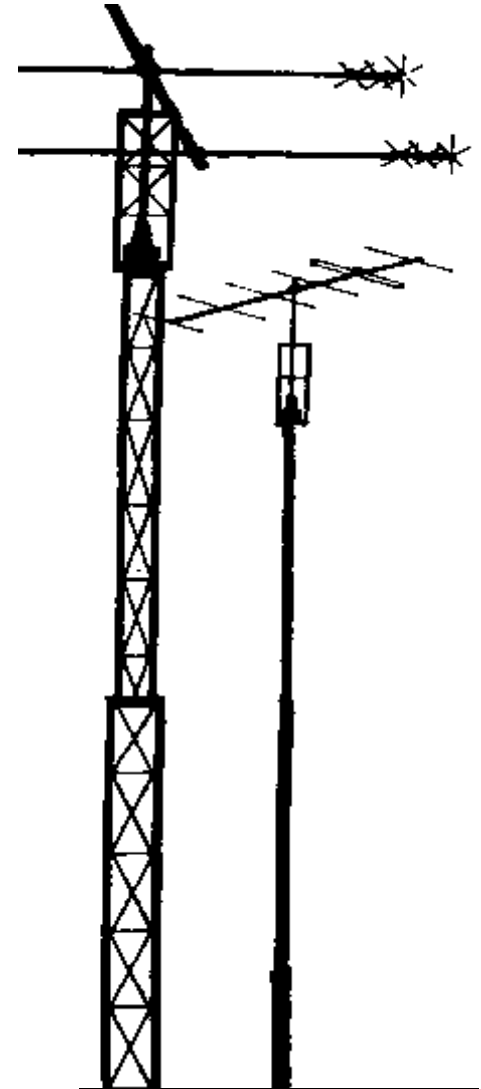
The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, June 10th, at 7:00 PM at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church, 875 Clifton Road in Bethel Park. Talk-in on the 146.955 N3RNX/R Repeater.

Our guest speaker will be Allegheny County Emergency Coordinator Bob Ferry Jr. N3DOK, to talk about Allegheny County ARES. Bob will be joined by his wife, Pat Ferry N3LWV, the ARRL WPA Section Public Information Officer.

We'll also be going over Field Day plans and preparations. If you've got an idea or just want to let us know you're coming (and when) this is the meeting to be at!

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

ARRL FIELD DAY June 26-27, 1999
Mineral Beach, Route 88, Library PA



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Schedule of Events

June 1999

- N3SH/WA3SH WASH Club Net, 9:00 PM ET Sunday Nights on 146.955 & 443.650 Repeaters NCS Schedule:
- June 6th: Nancy N3ZEN
- June 13th: Ron WN3VAW
- June 20th: Rich N3SBF
- June 27th: Nancy N3ZEN
- **Looking for more info** on the VE tests listed? See the club web site to get contacts & other details.
- **LOOKING AHEAD:**
- **July 11th** 14th Annual North Hills ARC Hamfest
- **July 17-18** 17th Annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Maryland FM Assn. Hamfest	31 Memorial Day (Observed)	1 SHBP&M Meeting	2 Uniontown ARC Meeting	3	4 Rochester Hamfest (NY)	5 Rochester Hamfest I ARU Region 1 Field Day
6 Breezeshooters Hamfest Tour de Cure I ARU Region 1 Field Day	7 Bum of the Month Lunch	8	9 NHARC Meeting	10 WASH Club Meeting 7 PM	11 TAARA VE Test SHARC VE Test	12 2 Rivers ARC Hams'n'Eggs Brkfst ARRL VHF Contest Bloomsburg, PA Hamfest
13 ARRL VHF Contest ANARTS WW RTTY	14 Flag Day SCARC VE Test	15 SCARC Meeting	16	17 TAARA Meeting Breezeshooters Dinner	18 2 Rivers ARC Meeting	19 2R ARC VE Test SMIRK 6 M Contest WVa QSO Party
20 Father's Day SMIRK 6 M Contest	21 Summer Solstice	22	23 NHARC Activity Night	24 SHARC Meeting	25	26 FIELD DAY MVCWRC VE Test
27 FIELD DAY	28	29	30	1 RAC Canada Day Contest	2	3 Venezuela SSB DX Contest Murgas ARC Hamfest Wilkes-Barre, PA

WASH 1999 OFFICERS

Executive Committee:			
President	Ron Notarius WN3VAW		
VP/Secretary	Steve Lane W3SRL		
VP/Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV		
N3SH & WA3SH Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL		
VE Team Liaison	Bob Sanford AA3FI		
Club Communications	Bob Sanford AA3FI		
N3SH/WA3SH WASH 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

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. (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)**

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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. 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 July 15th!

Our Next VE exam session will be **Thursday, July 15, 1999, 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 \$6.45 (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.

WASH Club Shirts Now Available! Ham Threads of Perry, MI can provide embroidered Polo shirts with the club logo (well, almost) for only \$22.95 per shirt (S M L XL; \$2/shirt more for 2X 3X & 4X shirts) when we place a group order. If you'd like your name & call on the shirt, the cost is \$8 more per shirt 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." Delivery time is 2 to 3 weeks.

KF8WS & N7UPY of Ham Threads are planning to be at the Breezeshooters Hamfest on June 6th. We'd like to try & place the order there so that we can obtain the shirts in time for Field Day. So decide what and how many you'd like and bring the order with you (or send it up with someone going)! Make checks payable to Ham Threads. We've made up a sample "order form" on the inside of the back page, but you can use whatever you'd like. And yes, they do jackets and hats too. (Why Ham Threads? Simple. They didn't charge a \$50 to \$75 set up fee like almost everyone else we spoke to, and they do good work — see the photos!)

Speaking of Breezeshooters, assuming you get this in time, don't forget to search for the WASH club tables set up somewhere in the flea market. We're going to try very hard to stick together — and come lunch time, a small picnic for club members is planned! If you'd like to bring something along for the cookout (all contributions welcome!), contact Ron WN3VAW or Al KA3UPY by Saturday afternoon, June 5th.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Our food situation is also in good hands, thanks to Carol, Mrs. N3SBF. If you would like to donate any food items, get a hold of Carol at N3SBF@juno.com.

To summarize, we could use the following:

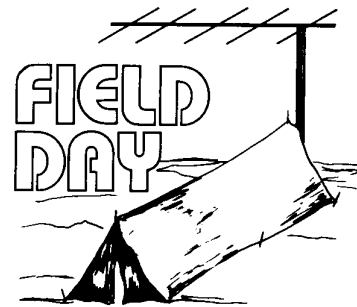
- At least one more HF antenna, whether it is a vertical or dipole, whatever you could loan us, thanks!
- Misc. lengths of coaxial cable, ladder line, and coax connectors.
- Extra batteries, big enough to power an HF radio at 100 watts for a few hours.
- SWR meters, antenna tuners.
- People to operate and help set up/take down the station

It is hard to believe that it is LESS than one month until Field Day 1999. Where does the time go? A few weeks ago we were at Dayton enjoying the Hamvention. Our Field Day can only be a success if we get participation from our members and those outside our club who are interested. Please consider coming out, if only for a few hours and operating with us, or pitching in to help set up and take it all back down. If you have any equipment you would like to loan, or have any questions, you can E-Mail me at: KQ3DX@hotmail.com.

Hope to see you at Mineral Beach June 26-27 for the fun!
73 de KQ3DX

— Greg Babin KQ3DX WASH 1999 Field Day Chairman

By the way... Mineral Beach is located on PA Route 88 approx. 3 miles south of South Park, and less than 1 mile south of Trax Farms. We will be using N3RNX/R repeater on 146.955 for talk-in, and



Regarding Antennas...

Duane Fischer W8DBF w8dbf@hallicrafters.org via the Hallicrafters Collectors Association

Greetings from the land of fallen antennas, twisted coax, broken insulators and figure 8 copper plated steel ground rods. Was it a Spring sub sonic wind storm that laid waste to my antenna farm? Was it a massive natural gas explosion that littered the area with bits of aluminum and knotted coax that not even a Boy Scout could untie? Nope. It was the deranged antenna guy I stupidly hired to improve my humble little antenna array. I should have known right away I was in trouble, when he showed up wearing a T-shirt that said "If it ain't broken, it will be!"

He was supposed to open up the distance between the two down legs of the twin sloper I used for forty, eighty and one hundred and sixty meters. Above the current location are my two and six meter horizontal beams, which form a considerable capacitance hat. King Tong, (about 6'5 and 300 lbs), decides to stick up a used tv tower way to heck and gone in my woods! He attaches it to my shed back there in the pine tree wilderness. I now have 175 feet of ugly black coax weaving through my grass like a gigantic snake.

So there is my faithful old reliable twin sloper up there among the pine cone infested branches with nothing above it but clouds ready to dump acid rain on it. I asked him what about the capacitance hat. He just grinned through his stainless steel teeth and pointed to the hat on his head that said "Sprague Sucks!"

When the twin sloper did not work, he decided to build a special coupling coil that would fix the out of band resonance point. Up the tv tower he goes carrying a bunch of copper pipe, wire and black electrical tape. What he bolted, taped and screwed to my tower looked like a spider jumping hurdles!

I had never seen a swr that high before. I don't know what brand of antenna analyzer he was using, but it started to laugh in this little high pitched Oriental voice! Then it said, "Dah! Can you spell 'tilt'?" King Tong was not amused. He picked up my chrome D-104 and smashed the analyzer.

Next he went to work on my brand new GAP Titan vertical. Before I could get the debris from the smashed analyzer picked up off my carpet, I heard him clomping around on my roof like a horse with a spastic leg. There was all sorts of banging, clanking and hammering going on. I was just stepping out the back door to throw the dust pan full of junk into the trash can, when King Tong flung a coil of 9913F coax off the roof. the coil dropped straight over my head and I felt like a roped steer at a rodeo! "Hey! Leave that alone, you'll get kinks in it!", he yells above the racket from the pneumatic wrench.

I hear him coming down my other tower like a bowling ball bouncing down a flight of stairs. He grabs my twin needle swr/watt meter off the shelf, hooks up the feedline, plugs the jumper in the back of the transceiver and turns it on. He keys the mike and shouts "King Tong likes Ding Dongs!" The twin needles crossed themselves and became permanently fused together. I could smell smoke so I yanked the power cord for the transceiver out of the power strip. "Hey! Why did you do that?", he demanded in a voice loud enough to drown out a tug boat fog horn. "It hadn't shorted out yet, as the fuse didn't blow. Now you've messed up my meter readings! Hey! These needles are stuck together, no wonder it doesn't work. You need a new meter dude!" At that point, I had to agree!

I have no idea next, but the shot a fireball meter hat. I the sizzle and King Tong's language quite ball of fire the gas can I

my shed to power the emergency generator. Kaboom! Metal fragments from the gas can shot everywhere. Flying pieces cut down my long wire shortwave antenna, severed the coax to my two and six meter beams and made my neighbor's aluminum siding look like Swiss cheese!

King Tong panicked and jumped in his truck to escape. He roared down my driveway towing the TV tower in the woods behind him! So much for his using the bumper hitch to secure a temporary guy wire! The tower was still banging, clanking and throwing up a shower of sparks as he roared North up the main highway.

So now you know why I have only this simple piece of wire for an antenna that my grandson climbed up my one remaining tree and tied around a branch for me. If you have difficulty in hearing me on the HCA 20 meter net... now you know the rest of the story.

So please make me feel a little better by showing up, when I have to do net control on Sundays at 1:45 PM EDT, (1745 UTC), on 14.293 MHz for the HCA 20 meter net! Be there and help me out troops! I already feel like I am talking on a tin can and a piece of string! I don't want to feel like that lonely May Tag repair guy.

Hear you soon on the HCA 20 meter net!

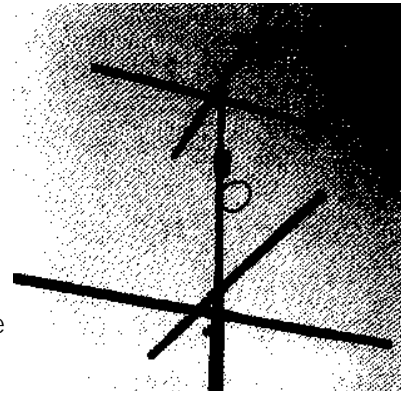
Duane Fischer W8DBF
w8dbf@hallicrafters.org



P.S. Antenna donations gratefully accepted! Wouldn't turn down help with landscaping my yard either!

Mailing Label Codes

- 1999: Current WASH Member, paid in full. Thanks from us all!
 1998: We didn't get your renewal. If you're going to renew, please do it now. Otherwise, this is your last issue.
 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. (You think I'd joke about this one?)



what he did GAP Titan off the eighty could hear bang over colorful easily. The landed on had beside

FCC Sets Aside Multiple Club Station Grants

ARRLWeb Extra courtesy of ARRL

Gettysburg, PA, May 19, 1999 — The FCC has set aside 14 recently granted club station call signs and 12 recently granted club vanity call signs held by an individual trustee. The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, took the action May 11 in a letter to Motoaki Uotome, W9BO, of Honolulu, Hawaii. Uotome is the trustee for 35 club station call signs in various cities in the continental US as well as in Hawaii, the Mariana Islands, Guam, and Alaska.

The action is the first of several the Hollingsworth said he expects to take, and it could have implications for other holders of multiple club station call signs. "They'd better have legitimate clubs or they're coming back to us," Hollingsworth told the ARRL today. "We're getting a lot of complaints that people are scarfing up these call signs." Hollingsworth said the FCC is not concerned about a single club station call sign used by a club or a DX or contesting group, but he emphasized that the FCC will not tolerate abuse of the system. He indicated similar letters soon would go out to other licensees who serve as trustees for multiple club station call signs.

Hollingsworth told Uotome that the FCC was setting aside 14 call signs granted within the last 30 days "pursuant to §1.113 of the Commission's rules." In addition, Hollingsworth said the FCC was setting aside 12 vanity call signs issued to Uotome in the last 30 days. Several club station call signs granted for more than 30 days will remain in the FCC database for now, but Hollingsworth asked Uotome to "provide justification within 30 days as to the need for each of these call signs." Hollingsworth said that he wants to know names, addresses, and telephone numbers of club members, meeting times and dates within the past year, proposed meeting times and locations within the coming year, and copies of minutes, if any, taken at meetings within the last three months. Hollingsworth said the FCC intends to cancel all of the listed call signs if Uotome does not "satisfactorily respond" to his inquiry within 30 days. He also warned that any willful misrepresentation or deliberate omission in replying would lead to revocation of Uotome's Amateur Radio license.

Amateur Radio Awareness Month

Bill Edgar N3LLR, SM, Western PA / WPA Section Club Listserver



Governor Tom Ridge has proclaimed June 1999 as Amateur Radio Awareness Month in Pennsylvania, thanks to the efforts of Eastern PA Section Public Information Coordinator Max Peters KI6NJ.

The full proclamation is posted on the World Wide Web in both Adobe PDF and html formats. To view the proclamation, navigate to the Atlantic Division Web site at <http://www.bfdin.com/atlantic/index.htm> and select the Photos option. At the following menu, select the Amateur Radio Awareness Month option.

NY Governor George Pataki has also proclaimed June as Amateur Radio Awareness Month in New York. There is a link to the NY proclamation on the Schenectady ARA's site. The direct route to the NY proclamation is www.rpi.edu/~brandp/sara/.

The End of Telex Hy-Gain

MFJ Enterprises News Release

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. announces that it has acquired Hy-Gain Antennas, Towers, and Rotators for amateur radio effective Monday, May 10, 1999.

Hy-Gain will remain a separate entity with separate management, employees and manufacturing facility in Starkville, Mississippi. The company will continue the entire product line that is currently being

produced, plus it will introduce several new products. This includes two new vertical antennas that were announced at the 1999 Dayton HamVenture.

Hy-Gain of Starkville will immediately begin selling the entire product through amateur radio dealers worldwide. There will be a small transition period as stock, parts, equipment, and production are moved from Nebraska to Starkville, Mississippi.

Hy-Gain can be contacted by calling 800-647-1800 or by fax: 601-323-6551.

Watch for more exciting Hy-Gain news through MFJ's Website: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com>

Hy-Gain will remain a separate entity, but there will be a small transition period as parts and equipment are moved to Starkville Mississippi.

N3SGY & N3RJH — Saturday, May 15th

Alex Quirk N3WRJ, Asst. EC for St. Marys & Elk County

Bob DeVilling N3SGY and Rick Wehler N3RJH were at Clearfield Speedway on Saturday evening, May 15th. In a freak accident they were hit by a tire & wheel that came loose from a race car.

N3SGY was taken by Life Flight helicopter to Allegheny General Hospital on Pittsburgh's North Side. N3RJH was less seriously injured, and later drove Bob's and his son and himself back in the DeVilling van to Ridgeway to transport Bob's family to Pittsburgh.

Bob was operated on Sunday for 2 blood clots on the brain but the positive result was that he immediately responded to the family after he came out of surgery. He also sustained a broken jaw, which has been wired shut and damage to his right arm, which will be operated on this coming week. As of Saturday May 22nd, the facial swelling has begun to go down, according to Bob's wife Lois N3WRN.

At last report, he remained in the AGH Trauma Unit. Visitation is limited to family members until he is moved to another unit.

(Editor's Note: Bob's status has probably changed by the time you read this. Call AGH before trying to contact Bob there. I'd suggest sending cards, notes, etc. to N3SGY's Callbook Address.)

ONE MORE IN '99!

Pacific Call Sign Changes?

Joe Speroni AH0A via Jim Reid KH7M & the DX Reflectors

The Pacific Section is low on Group A call signs for Hawaii, and Guam has none left. As was done for KH7 calls, further assignments are possible. This is a proposal to extend the assignments for Hawaii and Guam, to improve the situation. Prior to making any formal request to the FCC via the ARRL, inputs from Amateurs in the Pacific section and active DX amateurs are being sought. It would be much appreciated if Amateurs reading this page would take the time to provide comments and/or suggestions so we could have a broad review of the proposal. Please send your comments to the PacSec webmaster (Joe@Speroni.com) for consolidation and reporting to the ARRL Pacific Division, Pacific Section officers.

The KH1, KH4, and KH5 assignments are really not being used. Only one KH1 license, (AH1A) and four KH4 licenses (KH4AA, KH4AB, KH4AF & KH4AG) have been issued. AH1A has expired, and all five have mainland addresses. The point of itemizing these calls is to show there is little impact to reassigning the 1, 4, and 5 numerics in the Pacific region.

The FCC no longer documents these assignments in part 97. The definition is subject to change by FCC bulletin. The last was issued/ reviewed on Feb 23, 1999, and it is located on the FCC web site at Amateur Sequential Call Sign System. One possible proposal would be to assign KH1 to Guam, and KH4/5 to Hawaii. This would add to the Group A and B pools for the two largest ham communities in the Pacific.

To protect the identification of existing DX islands, K suffixes could be reserved as was done for Kure Island, e.g. AH7K, KH7K??, NH7K?? and WH7K?? are assigned to Kure stations, e.g. W8ABC/KH7K would indicate portable operation from Kure. So far no Kure calls have been issued by the FCC.

The changes would be:

KH1 Guam, except Baker or Howland Is.	KH1K Baker or Howland Island
KH4 Hawaii, except Midway	KH4K Midway
KH5 Hawaii, except Palmyra, Jarvis Island, or Kingman Reef	KH5J Palmyra or Jarvis Island
	KH5K Kingman Reef

The choice of K suffixes instead of pneumatic tags (e.g. KH4K for Midway instead of the more pneumatic KH4M is simply to make DX rules simpler to remember). But the J suffix (for Palmyra/Jarvis) would be required to maintain differentiation for all DX locations already documented by the FCC.

For the above proposal, paragraph 13 of the FCC bulletin would be modified as follows:

CURRENT TEXT (including the typo in KHO assignment):

13. Hawaii and Pacific Insular areas. The numeral 1 indicates Baker or Howland Island; 2 indicates Guam; 3 indicates Johnston Island; 4 indicates Midway Island; 5 indicates Palmyra or Jarvis Island; 5 followed by suffix letter K indicates Kingman Reef; 6 or 7 indicates Hawaii except Kure Island; 7 followed by the letter K indicates Kure Island; 8 indicates American Samoa; 9 indicates Wake, Wilkes, or Peale Island; and indicates the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

NEW TEXT PROPOSED:

13. Hawaii and Pacific Insular areas. The numerals 1 or 2 indicate Guam except Baker or Howland Island; 1 followed by the suffix K

DX News Briefs

OZ1PIF is the new QSL Manager for **OX3LX, OX3UB, & OX3LG**. — OZ7C

DX Pediton "Double Trouble, a group of "crazy DX-peditors" are planning a traditional type **DX-pediton to T31** Kanton and **ZK3** Tokelau this fall. The initial itinerary is T31 from September 23rd through October 3rd 1999, and ZK3 October 7th through 12th 1999. Plans are for three 1 KW stations manned by 6 operators, running one SSB site, one CW site and one WARC/Lowband/RTTY site. The rough budget for this DX-pediton is about 30,000 US\$ not counting the personal tickets and hotels to the takeoff site for the DX-pediton. The DX-pediton is looking for additional funds from Clubs and Foundations. Operator positions on the DX-pediton are still available; contact 5X1Z for more information.
— Mats 5X1Z/SM7PKK Home.Mats.Persson@wfp.or.uq



Pictures from the **BS7H** DX-pediton can be found at "<http://hem.passagen.se/sm0dtk/>", click "Lösgodis"! — Martin SM0DTK

From the "WFWL" file: **EP/RA6LGM** (op "Vic") has been very active of late, QSL manager allegedly RV6LAH. But: Russian amateurs have DF'd the signal as coming from the wrong direction, RV6LAH has been RZ6LS for quite some time (and not lived at his old address for 6 years), and RA6LGM may not have been issued or is a very recent issue. EP officials report no reciprocal calls to any RA stations have been issued. DX'ers who worked this station last year are still awaiting QSL's. Be aware this is probably a Pirate before sending off the green stamp(s)!

— RA6YR via UA9AR, W3UR/The Daily DX & 425 DX News

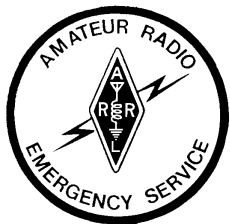
9K2ZZ QSL manager W8CNL has recently been getting QSL requests with no SASE. His policy: "No postage & SAE (DX) or SASE (US), you will NOT get a card !! All cards received under the above conditions are being thrown away, period !!" — W8CNL

The 8th Annual **New Orleans International DX Convention** will be held on August 27 & 28, 1999 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter of New Orleans. A "very special rate" is available for the convention. For more information send an email to n5vt@email.msn.com — N5VT

Look for special event station **CW40CC** from June 13 to 20, 160 through 6 meters, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Centro Radio Aficionados Montevideo. QSL via P.O. Box 6000, Montevideo 11000, Uruguay — W3UR/The Daily DX

← indicates Baker or Howland Island; 3 indicates Johnston Island; 4, 5, 6 or 7 indicates Hawaii, except Midway Island, Palmyra, Jarvis Island, Kure Island, or Kingman Reef; 4 followed by suffix K indicates Midway Island; 5 followed by suffix J indicates Palmyra or Jarvis Island; 5 followed by suffix letter K indicates Kingman Reef; 7 followed by the letter K indicates Kure Island; 8 indicates American Samoa; 9 indicates Wake, Wilkes, or Peale Island; and 0 indicates the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposal can be linked from the Pacific Section web site at: <http://www.pdarrl.org/pacsec>. Comments from interested Amateurs, e.g. DX clubs on the mainland, are sought.



Allegheny County ARES News

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

From the Atlantic Division News ListServer (original author unknown):

Here is a public relations challenge for every ham radio club, every ARRL Public Information Coordinator and Public Information Officer, every ham radio emergency communications group in the Atlantic Division ... Any ham who has faith in the future of our radio service.

There is much to be proud of in what hams have done in the past. No doubt about it. But to build interest in and support for Amateur Radio among our neighbors, we must tell people what hams are going to do for them in the future. We must tell them why Amateur Radio is important to people who expect to be alive during much of the 21st century.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if in every month of the year 2000, the media in your town carried a strong story about how ham radio is going to contribute to your community in the 21st century? If a series of public displays, demonstrations, and other PR events in your town showed ham radio as the future-oriented technological activity we know it to be?

Starting now, you and other hams in your community can develop a series of ideas and flesh them out into good human-interest stories that local media will want to use. How is ham radio going to make a difference in people's lives in your town?

What are places such as libraries and town halls, fairs and festivals, where you could put up a series of working displays about ham radio in the 21st century? Are there broadcast and cable TV programs which would interview hams? Could your radio club help sponsor a communications-oriented science fair for youth in the local school district? Could you set up a well-publicized Web site showing the future role of ham radio in your town, with content changing monthly?

Have you ever really sat down with other area hams and brainstormed an inventory of means and opportunities to tell the Amateur Radio story in your town? Is there a better time than now? Everybody else is riding the wave of enthusiasm about the year 2000 ... we hams can do it, too. We must seize this opportunity to break the common public misperception, once and for all, that ham radio is yesterday's hobby, a geezer hobby, the old neighborhood everybody's moving out of.

A successful year-long PR campaign about ham radio in your community's future can't be thrown together overnight. Cooperative efforts by various clubs and interest-groups of hams in the community may be required. Resources from the ARRL will be helpful for ideas and practical tips (check out the ARRL Web site!). We have half of 1999 left for planning.

Think about it: a strong ham radio story every month of the year 2000 in the media in your town. A series of interesting public presentations on ham radio every month, somewhere in your community.

Think about it ... and then *make it happen!*

Pacific Calls: Another View

Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Over on Page 6 is a proposal from AHOA on changing US Pacific Insular call blocks (If you haven't read it yet, please do so now). The proposed change should make available more Class A calls to amateurs in Hawaii, Guam, and the Mariana Islands, where the original Class A calls are extinguished.

I agree with the main concept of making available currently under-used or non-used prefix blocks. However, I think that Joe's proposal, if adopted, would prove too cumbersome and confusing. Instead, I would suggest picking one of the existing "available" blocks and splitting it up amongst the under-populated or un-manned Pacific possessions. The split would be based on the first letter of the Prefix. For example:

AH1 Baker or Howland Island
KH1 Midway
NH1 Palmyra or Jarvis Island
WH1 Kingman Reef

Once adopted, this change would make identifying these islands on the air quick & easy, and would free up the 4 & 5 blocks for other use. (Although I use the "1" block here, any of the blocks would do).

However: This change, if adopted, would only address the symptom, not the problem. There is a good reason why there are no Class A calls available in Guam & the Mariana Islands; most are held by non-US amateurs who have passed the Extra exam, but do not reside on these islands *if they ever did*; or are held as "club" callsigns by "clubs" that may not exist or are located thousands of miles away.

They are considered "trophy" or "vanity" calls by these amateurs, who may not have been able to obtain desirable calls at "home". It has been alleged that many use mail drops, friends homes (even if the friends have long since sold the homes & moved away) or invalid addresses to skirt FCC rules.

Some of the very active contest stations from these locations the last few years have consisted of non-US amateurs who fly in for the weekend, activate their vanity call from a hotel, and fly out after the contest vacation is over. This is not a new practice — and US amateur are just as guilty (take a good look at the assignments of a lot of Caribbean contest calls), though not to this degree.

Making more Class A calls available does not necessarily translate to those calls going to local amateurs; it may just make more available to be snapped up by visitors and phony "clubs".

Can the FCC limit the Class A call assignments to local residents? If they try, will the rule hold up to the inevitable court challenge? Can they keep it free of loopholes? Can and/or should they try to ferret out improperly held Class A calls and eventually return them to the pool of available calls? Good questions, and I have no answers. But this problem should be addressed & all parties satisfied prior to blindly opening up more calls for the taking.

Ever seen a 3-wheeled sports car?
Ever seen 5 or 6 of them race?

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

17th Annual Race Weekend July 17 & 18, 1999

Benefits Autism Society of Pittsburgh & Allegheny Valley School

1999 Dayton hamvention®

Greg Babin KQ3DX

Well, another Dayton Hamvention has come and gone. It seems that every year it takes so long for Dayton to roll around and then, poof, it's gone for another year. It was, once again, another excellent Hamvention put together by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. The weather was not so great on Friday; it was kind of cool and overcast, but Saturday and Sunday turned out to be perfect days to be outside hunting down all the bargains. Lots of goodies abounded in the outdoor flea market; old radios, parts to make them work again, computers, software, antennas, cable, the list goes on and on. One of the more interesting things I saw was a military telescoping 50' antenna tower. At \$5000.00 I wouldn't say it was a steal, but I'm sure it was a treasure find for somebody out there.

As I mentioned before, there were lots of old radios in the flea market (I love old radios that glow in the dark). Heathkit, Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, National, Johnson, Collins, (Collins radios are like fine wine; they appreciate with age, and the prices reflected it!) Gonset, Drake; you name it, it was probably on someone's table. Other tables were filled with nothing but tubes, another one was full of manuals; in short it was a scroungers paradise.

The inside exhibits were just as impressive. Once again Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, MFJ, Cushcraft, Hy-Gain, and many of the other big manufacturers were well represented. Lots of dealers were there too, selling their wares. For the first time that I can remember, national dealers AES and HRO were there selling equipment in addition to the others that are there year after year such as R&L Electronics, The Ham Station, and Michigan Radio. There were also a lot of the smaller businesses there too; K1EA, DXBase, Buckmaster, Timewave, selling the accessories that we all just gotta have. Also quite a few dealers were there selling computer systems, accessories and software. I think I walked thru the inside exhibits a half dozen or so times, and I know I still missed someone's booth full of goodies.

Now, I am personally a Ten-Tec nut. When I was visiting their booth, I saw a new computer controlled rig. Known as the Pegasus, it is simply a box containing all the circuitry; the face of the rig is displayed on your computer monitor. It has all kinds of nice features, such as a spectrum scope/panadapter, so you can see where all the activity is on the bands, 100 watts output, the

ability to tailor your transmit audio to different bandwidths plus all kinds of other neat stuff. So it looks like the manufacturers are venturing into computer-controlled radios with virtual displays, things that, 50 years ago would have been only science fiction. New offerings from Yaesu such as the FT-100 commander were on display, the Kenwood VC-H1 Visual Communicator, a new Ten-Tec amplifier, the Titan II, the Kachina DSP-505 computer controlled radio, plus other things I'm sure I missed.

There were quite a few forums this year too. These included: a TAPR/Digital Packet forum, Ham Radio and the Internet, AMSAT, Contesting, DX, Antique Radio forums for Collins and Drake, an ARRL forum, and many others. One of the more interesting forums was the FCC forums, actually two of them, one on Friday and the other on Sunday, both moderated by Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH of the FCC. As you may or may not know, Riley is the chief man in charge of Amateur enforcement for the FCC, and has been doing an excellent job in the short time he has held the position. These forums dealt with enforcement and rulemaking issues, and the responsibilities of amateur operators, among



other topics.

It appears that attendance was down from last year. I put a request in to one of the organizers and asked for an official count, but have not gotten one yet. I have heard unofficial numbers around 27,000 or so. When I get an answer on attendance, I will pass it on. Hopefully this is a trend that will reverse itself next year.

Next year's Hamvention will be held on May 19, 20, and 21, 2000. This will be one not to miss as not only will it be Dayton 2000, but it will also double as the ARRL National Convention. Many of the League's top brass will be on hand to discuss what the future should be for Amateur Radio, and they will also discuss their plan "2020 Vision" which is a look at what Amateur Radio will look like 10 and 20 years in the future. This should prove to be an interesting and informative presentation by the ARRL.

In short, if you missed Dayton '99, shame shame, everybody knows your name! Seriously, consider going to Dayton 2000. It is well worth

the 4 1/2 hour drive, and if you have never been there before, you will be amazed at the flea market and the inside exhibitors. There is so much to see and do that it seems that 3 days is not enough to do it in. For those in your family who are not interested in radio (blasphemous!) there are plenty of activities to keep them from getting bored. Wright-Patterson AFB is close by; a very interesting museum displaying aircraft from the US Air Force fleet of the past 50+ years, a cooking class where your XYL (or OM) can learn new secrets and new recipes, and a beauty make-over class; for the XYL who needs some work done on her looks. All of these events are close by and transportation is provided. So I hope you will be able to go next year; you will not be disappointed!



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Inside This Issue:

- 1999 Field Day Plans — Updated!
- FCC Cracks Down on Club Call Abuse!
- You think *you* have antenna troubles? Much, much more... of course!

See You At Breezeshooters Hamfest June 6!

You're Invited to Join Us for Field Day!

The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc., N3SH/WA3SH cordially invites you, your friends and your family to join us for Field Day Weekend, June 26th & 27th, at Mineral Beach picnic site.

You don't have to be a member to join us (though all are welcome to join!), and you don't have to be a licensed amateur to come and have a good time with us.

Mineral Beach is located on PA Route 88 in Library, PA, approximately three miles south of South Park and less than one mile south of Trax Farms.

If you can come & haven't already done so, please RSVP to WASH Field Day Chairman Greg Babin KQ3DX, kq3dx@hotmail.com (we want to make sure we have enough!)

PS — if circumstances prevent you from joining us for Field Day, then please join another group wherever you happen to be so that you don't miss out on the fun!

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



The *WASH*Rag
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