



WASHRAG

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TM

Volume 2 Issue 3

March 2000



N3SH
WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

WASHFest 2000 A Smashing Success!



Well, its over. Our fifth big year for the South Hills Hamfest, and one of our best successes ever! As the Sammy Hagar song goes, "...It was a sold out show!!!"

A year-plus of planning by the Hamfest committee, along with a several months of good old-fashioned word-of-mouth advertising served to produce one of the best hamfests the club has ever hosted. While the final numbers are still not in, by all accounts we had one of the best years ever of hosting the South Hills Hamfest. By 8:15 AM EVERY SINGLE TABLE IN THE HALL WAS SOLD! This is only the second time we have ever done this, and the enthusiasm of the attendees was tremendous. Just about every one of the vendors had a smile on his face by the end of the day. Also, a respectable number of attendees crossed our threshold. All in all, a GREAT hamfest!

This is not to say that there weren't some downsides to the event. A lack of large, commercial Ham equipment vendors, and a lack of 'good' hamfest food (what an oxymoron THAT is!) were some of the gripes heard. On the plus side, moving the 'fest up one week to not conflict with the Cuyahoga hamfest was a winner all around. The W2K digital station was also a smashing success.

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Next Meeting: March 9th, 2000

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, March 9th, at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church, 875 Clifton Road in Bethel Park, starting at 7:00. Talk-in on the 146.955 N3RNX/R Repeater.

The activities committee, still recovering from WASHfest, hasn't announced our topic. So at least join us for our traditional post-hamfest pizza night!

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

W2K Finale

Well folks, here is the official wrap-up on the WASHFest 2000 W2K Special Event Station. We had a wonderful turnout of people looking at our setup AND asking questions about digital modes. Everybody walked away with more information on digital modes and how to operate them.

It was the best of times....

Our primary goal was to show people how easy it was to setup for digital communications - everyone commented on how much they liked the secondary monitors pointing towards the crowd.

It was the worst of times....

Our secondary goal was to have some lively QSO's going throughout the day on RTTY and PSK-31. However a combination of our antennas and a slow Sunday morning time frame, we were only able to net a few contacts on RTTY.

I had at least 5 people ask me about where to get the PSK-31 kits - too bad the vendor wasn't there - they really could have done well. I met with at least a dozen kit builders that day as well.

Special thanks goes out to Jeff Hutzleman N3NHS who came to the hamfest with the W3VC-1 mobile tracking unit and setup shop at the W2K table. Jeff jumped right in help us debug some system troubles we were having. He was also answering some questions to passer-bys who were interested in APRS. According to Jeff, APRS

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Schedule of Events

March 2000

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

NCS Schedule:

- ⇒ March 5th: TBA
- ⇒ March 12th: TBA
- ⇒ March 19th: TBA
- ⇒ March 26th: TBA

LOOKING AHEAD:

- *Two Rivers ARC Hamfest*, April 9th
- *WACOM Hamfest*, April 30th
- *Dayton Hamvention* May 19th, 20th, 21st
- *Breezeshooters Hamfest* June 4th
- *WASHFest 2001* February 25th, 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Allegheny Co ARES Net Allegheny Co Skywarn Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net Steel City ARC Social Night Uniontown ARC Meeting WACOM Meeting (1 Day Early)	2 RA of Erie Meeting	3 Elco RS Meeting	4 North Hills ARC Elmer Net RA Erie VE Test Session WPA Hilltoppers VE Test Breezeshooters VE Test ARRL DX Contest SSB
5 Ellwood City ARA Meeting ARRL DX Contest SSB	6 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co PS Net Triple "A" ARC Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Greater Pgh VHF Society Mtng Bum of the Month Lunch	7 SATERN Net North Hills ARC Net Butler Co ARA Meeting Carnegie Tech RC Meeting South Hills Brasspounders Mtng Skyview RS Meeting	8 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Allegheny Co ARES Westmoreland Co ARES Steel City ARC Social Night North Hills ARC Meeting	9 <i>WASH Meeting & Pizza Night!</i> Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Triple "A" ARA VE Test	10	11 North Hills ARC Elmer Net 2 Rivers Ham 'n Eggs Breakfas Tri-County CW ARC VE Test QCWA QSO Party Wisconsin QSO Party W3A Beaver Co Bicentennial
12 QCWA QSO Party Wisconsin QSO Party W3A Beaver Co Bicentennial	13 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co PS Net Triple "A" ARC Net 2 Rivers ARC Net AR League of Lawrence Co Mtg	14 SATERN Net North Hills ARC Net Foothills ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft. Venango Mike & Key Club Punxsatawney Area RC Meeting	15 Allegheny Co ARES Net Allegheny Co Skywarn Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net Steel City ARC Social Night Southern PA ARC Meeting Huntington Co ARC Meeting SATERN Tech & Code Class	16 Triple "A" ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Dinner	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Spring Banquet	18 North Hills ARC Elmer Net Skyview RS 40th Anniversary Alaska QSO Party Virginia QSO Party Ohio Winter QSO Party Bermuda Contest
19 Skyview RS 40th Anniversary Eik Co ARC Meeting Alaska QSO Party Virginia QSO Party Ohio Winter QSO Party Bermuda Contest	20 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co PS Net Triple "A" ARC Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Steel City ARC VE Test Session Steel City Code & Theory Class	21 SATERN Net North Hills ARC Net Steel City ARC Meeting Skyview RS Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Junata Valley ARC Meeting	22 Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net North Hills ARC Activity Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting SATERN Tech & Code Class	23 Steel City Code & Theory Class	24 <i>World TB Day</i>	25 North Hills ARC Elmer Net CQ WW Prefix Contest SSB
26 CQ WW Prefix Contest SSB	27 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co PS Net Triple "A" ARC Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Steel City Code & Theory Class	28 SATERN Net North Hills ARC Net Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting	29 Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net Steel City ARC Social Night SATERN Tech & Code Class	30 Steel City Code & Theory Class WACOM Board of Directors Meeting	31	

WASH 2000 OFFICERS

Executive Committee:			
President	Ron Notarius WN3VAW		
VP/Secretary	Steve Lane W3SRL		
VP/Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV		
And We Couldn't Do It Without:			
N3SH / WA3SH / W2K Trustee	Steve Lane W3SRL		
VE Team Liaison	Bob Sanford AA3FI		
Club Communications	Bob Sanford AA3FI		
Club Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI		
Club Librarian	Paul Lusardi NOVLR		
N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers			
2 Meter FM	Greg Babin KQ3DX		
10 Meter Digital	John Benitez KE3XB		
South Hills Hamfest Co-Chairman	Steve Lane W3SRL		
(WASHfest 2001)	Bill Hill W3VWH		
Field Day 2000 Chairman	Greg Babin KQ3DX		
PA QSO Party Coordinator	(open)		
Club-Affiliated Repeaters:			
Mt. Lebanon N3RNX/R	146.955 -	PL 131.8	
Mt. Lebanon W3SRL/R	442.550 +	PL 131.8	
Canonsburg N3FFP/R	443.650 +	PL 131.8	
N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 repeater, usually followed by the 10 Meter SSB Informal Net on 28.469 MHz. The 10 Meter Digital N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet meets on 28.105 MHz at 9:30 PM ET, starting with RTTY. (Frequencies are +/- QRM). All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!			

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Tests April 6th & 20th!

Our Next VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, April 6th & April 20th, 2000**, at **7:00 PM**, at the *John McMillan Presbyterian Church*, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on 146.955 MHz. All examiners are ARRL affiliated. Morse code exams are multiple-choice. Walk-ins are welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Bob Sanford AA3FI, telephone (724)-356-4020 or E-Mail: sanfordb@access.hky.com

Please bring the following to your test session:
 Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
 Pen / Pencil / Calculator
 Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
 Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
 Check or Cash in the amount of \$6.65 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

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

More on the April 2000 WASH VE Exams

WASH & the WASH VE Team set the Year 2000 VE schedule months before the FCC announced restructuring. We have modified the schedule to take the restructuring changes into account.

First, an "early" April exam will take place on April 6th, the Thursday night before the club meeting. This date was chosen with the simple

goal in mind of making sure everyone who wanted to take their tests under the current system got one more chance to do so prior to the April 15th rules implementations.

Second, since our April 20th exam is one of the first ARRL VEC test sessions after implementation, we're expecting a lot of people will be coming to file their paperwork for their license upgrades under the new rules (remember, it's not automatic!) So we are going to run two sessions that night. The regular test session, as noted above, will go on as planned, and anyone who will be taking exam elements that night is more than welcome to it. In addition, though, we will run a "paperwork only" VE session in another room starting at about 6 PM. This will let anyone who only needs to have the paperwork examined & processed for an upgrade get in & out with a minimum of fuss, while maintaining the "regular" test session too.

A lot of radio clubs in the area are also sponsoring additional VE test sessions between now and April 15th. If you can't make our April 6th exam, check the club web site for up-to-date information on VE exams in SW Pa. & immediate vicinity to see if there's another exam that suits your schedule.

Don't forget, the Amateur Service Rules changes take effect on April 15th.

Are you ready?

And why does it coincide with National Pay Your Taxes With a Smile Day?

(Continued from page 1)

And that, folks brings me to my final point here. The South Hills Hamfest (WASHfest) was a tremendous success because of YOU, our membership. As anyone who has been to one of our hamfests will tell you, I make it a point to seek out each and every one of the vendors, and to get their input on things in general about our show. Without exception, every single person I spoke to about the 'fest commented on how friendly and helpful everyone working the 'fest was. Without exception, every single person who helped out was courteous, helpful and polite. That, my friends went a long, long way to ensuring a great event. They are coming back because of your attitudes alone.

In closing, I am purposely NOT going to thank individuals by name, because I always seem to leave a person or two out and I don't wish to upset anyone by doing so. You know who you are, and that is the important thing. YOU made this show a rousing success, and I hope to have your continued support for WASHfest 2001.

— Steve Lane W3SRL, Co-Chairman, WASHFest 2000

Once again, special thanks to our friends in **WACOM** for the use of their mobile antenna trailer by the W2K antenna system. There were a lot of looks of admiration (and astonishment!) as people walked by it going to and from their vehicles!

N3SH Status: At deadline, the correction of the N3SH assignment in the FCC database was caught in ULS processing limbo. Club officers are in contact with FCC staff to get this resolved once and for all. Again, we've been asked to not use N3SH until the FCC database is updated to avoid unfortunate misunderstandings.

XE2/N3SH: On Sunday, February 27th, AA3FI, AA3JS, KE3XB, N3XI, N3QMV and KB3DKO departed for 2 weeks of mountaineering in Mexico. We don't know if they brought along a QRP rig after all, but... here's hoping for a safe, fun trip gang, and we'll look forward to hearing all about it when you get back!

WASHRag.PDF: If you'd like to receive the electronic newsletter in .PDF format, send an email to WA3SH-subscribe@egroups.com.

New Harmonic: Congratulations to Rich (N3SRC) & Sue Armstrong on the birth of their first grandchild, Kayla Armstrong, on January 29th. Remember Rich, start her on the code early... "say dah dah"



1999 PA QSO Party: The official results are due any day, but we've heard from WA3SES that the "100 QSO Club" commemorative coffee mugs are in the mail! WN3VAW should be receiving the WASH shipment in time for the March meeting. Thanks Ed, and thanks again to W3HDH & the Nittany ARC for putting on a fabulous contest year in & year out!

Dayton 2000: Get on the Bus! Butler Co ARA is again sponsoring a bus to Dayton, leaving Friday morning (6:30 AM) & returning Sunday night. Cost \$145/person including room. For details, call Opal WB3ITS (724) 533-5836 — Deadline is March 31st!

WASH 2000 Dues Now Due — Don't Put it Off Any Longer!

Minutes, February 10th 1999 Meeting

Steve Lane W3SRL Vice President/Secretary WASH

Meeting was called to order at 19:20 hours by President Ron Notarius, WN3VAW. There were 19 members present, and 1 guest.

A moment of silence was observed for <SK> & other deserving persons. Introductions were then made all around, as is our custom.

Minutes of the November were read, and motion to accept by Carol Danko, and seconded by N3QMV and carried.

Treasurer: Report read and accepted.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

VE: Several clubs running sessions between now and April 15th.

Repeater Report: N3RNX. Running well. Pete also showed his new toy, a CES Simplex Autopatch. He has all the documentaion as well for review. This works well on a simplex frequency.

2M Net Report: WN3VAW for KQ3DX – Net control ops still needed.

Digital Net: NOVLR - Informal, at best. A handful of ops doing the bulk of the work.

Contests: N3UE – Breezeshotters 10m Groundwave contest on Saturday February 19th, the night before the hamfest, 8 PM till Midnight. WN3VAW – ARRL DX SSB contest. WN3VAW offered his shack to run a club station for this contest. Contact Ron to participate.

Newsletter: It is out for this month. Electronic version is on the list, as well as on the website. WA3SH-SUBSCRIBE@egroups.com is the address to subscribe. Anyone who no longer wants the printed version, let Ron know.

President: Spoke with the FCC again re: N3SH. K4ZDH is speaking at the NARC banquet on March 17th. Our new domain name is www.washarc.org. Thanks to Bob, AA3FI for making that happen.

Hamfest: W3SRL – Need volunteers for the 'fest, and to help with the special event station. NOVLR has a short script written up for talking up the Hamfest on local nets. Will ask N3DOK about using the ARRL's list to get the word out.

Old Business: Dayton trip revisited. The Univ. of Dayton Dorms are \$80 per night. The motorhome will run about \$700 for a week.

New Business: Request from Montour HS for an ad in the program book for their paly. The ads run from \$25.00 for an 1/8th page ad and up. Motion by W3WH/N3IDH to place said ad in the name of the club after the financial results of the hamfest are known. Motion carried, with one dissenting vote.

Good of the Order: N3IDH reported that WACOM will be having code classes at the South Strabane VFD in beautiful downtown Pancake. The WACOM hamfest is going to be on April 30th at the Washington County Fairgrounds. W3SRL also showed two crystal radio kits that he and his son, Terry were building. N3UE mentioned the classes that the SATERN folks were holding. N3RDV mentioned that we are looking for speakers for the upcoming club meetings, after the Hamfest.

Motion to adjourn by Carol Danko, and seconded by N3QMV.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:20 hours.

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will again be used in 2000 Pittsburgh marathon. For more information on Jeff's work with APRS please visit: <http://marconi.ece.cmu.edu/aprs/>

W2K attempted several times to contact Francesco, I mean Frank, N3XI/IT near Rome Italy on 10M but could not raise him. Chris KB3DAR was able to contact him and held onto a 5 minute QSO! - congrats to Chris and Frank!

A special thanks goes out to Tom Dandrea, N3EQF of EQF software for sending his latest version of Log-EQF for us to use on the W2K special event station.

Lastly, I would like to extend a thank you to all that donated time and talent to the station:

John KE3XB Kevin N3KFD Dave N3IDH Bill W3WH
Steve W3SRL Pete N3RNX Mark N3RDV
and my sons, Michael & Anthony for their antenna raising expertise
— Paul Lusardi NOVLR

Tech "Support"?

Excerpted from a reply from the AT&T@Home Online Customer Support Center to a local Cable Modem user:

"If deleting the cache files does not significantly improve your browsing experience, check the amount of power available to your cable modem. Your cable modem requires more power than a normal household device.

If the speed has not improved, plug the modem into a wall unit instead of the power strip or surge protector."

K4ZDH To At Speak NARC Spring Banquet

The Nittany Amateur Radio Club W3YA/K3HKK has announced that FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, will be the guest speaker at the NARC Spring Banquet on Friday, March 17th, 2000, at Celebration Hall, 2280 Commercial Boulevard, State College. The activities start at 5:30 PM. Tickets cost \$20/person, and reservations are due by March 10th. For more information, contact the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 614, State College PA 16804.

N3MSE Photo of K4ZDH & then WPA SM N3LLR taken at the 1999 WPA President's Conference courtesy of ARRL WebExtra (c)1999,2000 ARRL



WASH 2000 New & Returning Members

K3LIE	N3KFD	N3UIW	N4MIS	Dan Mohr
KA3JZR	N3MJQ	N3VVL	NP2JF	JoAnn Cottrill
KB3CPI	N3OBD	N3VWF	W3SRL	Marilyn Nizinski
KB3DCO	N3QMV	N3WPT	W3VFA	
KB3DSD	N3RDV	N3XFE	W3WH	
KQ3DX	N3RHT	N3YOY	WB3BPH	
NOVLR	N3RNX	N3ZEG	WN3BOJ	Through February 22 nd
N2QIV	N3TBK	N3ZEH	WN3VAW	List compiled by
N3BSQ	N3TES	N3ZEL		Mark Stabryla N3RDV
N3KEH	N3UE	N3ZNI		Vice President/Treasurer



FYI Networks, an internet provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of WASH their Basic Internet account, normally \$20/month, for only \$15/month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet & FTP access. Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-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 this special offer available to us for the past year!

View of a Sellout Performance!

All photos this page courtesy of and ©2000 Ed Salva W3VFA (Thanks Ed!)



View of the hall, about 5:30 AM



Vendor Check In, about 6:30 AM



About to open the floodgates, 7:55 AM



← Everyone's busy getting ready... and there's a little bit of just about everything you can think of!



→ Pete N3RNX manning the test bench... and selling a few VCR's in the process...



← TLC Embroidery busy with some happy visitors



→ Parts, parts everywhere!

Congratulations to our Main Prize Winners:

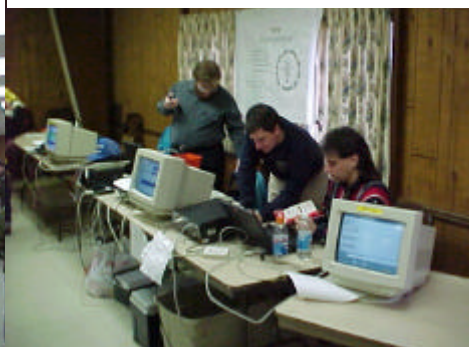
- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| First Prize: | Yaesu VX-5R Triband HT | Bob Stoner KB3EPC |
| Second Prize: | ICOM IC-2100 Mobile | Bill Nizinski N3TES |
| Third Prize: | MFJ 9420X | Pete Cole N3RNX |
| Fourth Prize: | MAHA Battery Charger | Paul Rakow W3HGT |

See You Next Year At WASHfest 2001!

Hmmm... we put N3SBF's smiling face on the 'fest WASHRag we gave to everyone, and STILL they bought tickets from him... (of course, we had Carol over there too!)



"Now what color wire is positive again?"



3YØPI DXpedition Update

Tony DePrat WA4JQS / VP8BZL
South Sandwich Island DXpedition Group

As most of you may know the South Sandwich Group, VP8SSI / 3YØPI, has for over 3 years been working on a Bouvet landing. We did have landing permission; it was revoked 30 days before departure because of a bird study that was started. This study is an on-going study at this time. It was to only last for one year but has lasted much longer.

I have written and sent to the Government of Norway a number of impact and cleanup statements. These have taken a number of months to be reviewed and returned with changes requested. I revised the statement and return to Norway. Last year the top member of the LA DX Group put out email requesting report and letters stating that permission to operate was important to hams. I along with the entire membership of SSIDXG and others sent him emails to help with the case presented to the government of Norway. XE1L Luis sent a very detailed statement and I sent copies of SSIDXG statements used for landing in 1992 on South Sandwich VP8SSI and in 1994 for our 3YØPI operation. A few months later I received another rejection for landing permission due to the flight path of the helo's needed to get us on the island.

I have since, with the help of other members of SSIDXG who are pilots and have knowledge in island landings, re-sent the request for landing. We have been told that we could land outside of the now restricted area on this island. This site is on the rocks at the base of the island where the Antarctic sight seeing groups land. This is just above sea level and too dangerous a site for an operation due to sea storm conditions.

It is my hope that within the next year someone, if not SSIDXG, will be able to get permission. As we see more and more of these island being put off limits to outsider who are not with the polar research groups, these islands will be harder to get on. There are many reasons for this. The research groups want these islands for their use only. This does stop hams from going, .but has no bearing on the sight seeing groups or boaters who land daily on these island without written permission. This makes it even harder for we as hams to get landing permission.

Over the past years we have become our own worst nightmares. With the fight within and one group trying to out do the other. we are now very divided with this group and that group and each going behind the others back to beat them out. What we need to do is set differences aside and work together as a team ALL HAMS! and pool our resources both knowledge , equipment and money and do it together.

"In October 1998, I worked HC1OT & it was a new country for me. The contact was saved in my computer log & in the remarks section I wrote K8ZZ as the QSL manager. I waited for a few months before sending my card. When I decided to do so I thought I should first send an email to K8ZZ to confirm if he was still the QSL manager for HC1OT. Sure enough, his reply came back the next day confirming that.

The next day, on March 25, 1999, I mailed my card to him, 'SASE' included. The mail usually takes 7 to 10 days to get from here (Kuwait) to USA. I waited for a while and since there was no reply I decided on July 2, 1999 to send him an email again inquiring whether he received my card or not. He replied saying that he is no longer the QSL manager for that station !!!!!!!

What would a QSL chaser do in such a case?"
— Mohammad Almutairai 9K2UB radio_9k2ub@yahoo.com

DX News Briefs

The CW Sao Paulo Group (CWSP) is QSL manager for the **AXØLD** operation, 26 January from Macquarie Island. VKØLD declines to accept any excess monies from the QSLing process. Instead, he requests that stations wishing to obtain a AXØLD QSL each make a small donation to cover the postal costs, the remainder to be donated to charity. AXØLD QSL Direct Only via Sao Paulo CW Group PY2GCW, PO Box 7068, Sao Paulo SP 01064 - 970, BRAZIL — PY2YP



On a related note, Bill Moore NC1L at the ARRL DXCC desk stated in a February 2nd email that QSL's from **VKØLD VKØMM & AXØLD** "are OK and will be accepted for DXCC credit" — AD1C

V73CW expects to go QRT on 11 March. He plans to be as active as possible on all bands in the remaining time. — V73CW/AC4G

QSL Routes:

JW5HE via LA5HE/OX8RO — LA5HE

JW7FD via LA7FD; **JW6WEA** via LA6WEA — LA6WEA

ZK1NCI via IK2GNW ONLY — IN3NJB

ZK1AVK via LA5VK; **VP5BR** via OH2BR; **6Y3A** via KN5H — KI4RU

XW8INH (JH1EDB) via JM1GYQ — JA1ELY

HC8L (W6NL) via N2AU — W6NL

FK8HC via VK4FW — FK8HC

XW2A via G4ZVJ; **9G5CW** via DL2RUM — DL1GHX

OHØB via OH2BH – W3UR

Former **7Q7DX** (through October 1998) is now **P29DX** as of January 1st. This is a re-issued call! EA4CEN is QSL manager for 7Q7DX and the new P29DX (but not the old) — EA4CEN

Don't forget that **HB2** is a special prefix for 2000 for amateurs in Switzerland. QSL to the equivalent HB9 call. —KB8O, N5CQ

Waiting on a card from **VR2BG / VR97BG / VR98BG** etc.? Brett is currently working on the backlog as he wants to clear all of the cards out before his upcoming move to 9M6. He is doing this chore himself without benefit of a manager to assist him. — KD7H

G3RTE, G3SWH, G3UNA, 5Z4RL, 5Z4IC & 5Z4GS will activate Wasini Island (IOTA AF-067), Kenya as **5Z4WI** on both SSB and CW on all bands from 160 to 10 meters between 8th and 16th March. 5Z4WI will be an HQ station during the RSGB Commonwealth Contest, but will also make non contest QSO's during the contest period. QSL's will be handled by G3SWH. — G3SWH

QSL **ET3VSC** direct: Claudio Vascotto, POB 20011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — N5DUW

Willis Island **VK9WI** will be on the air in May. More information is available at www.qsl.net/vk9wi/index.htm — VK4ZEK

The Clipperton Expedition left San Diego on February 22nd. Travel time to **FOØ**, assuming the same speed and travel time as the 1992 expedition, should be about 6 days plus 1-2 days to find a safe landing spot and to setup, so they should be on the air by March 1st. More information is available at www.qsl.net/clipperton2000.htm — W2IJ & PA1AW

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



Allegheny County ARES News

Richard E. Beaver N3SRJ
WPA Section Emergency Coordinator

Effective 02/13/2000, Beaver County Emergency Coordinator Dave Leiser K3NPX will be filling in the role as EC of Allegheny County. The Assistant EC's are instructed to report and communicate with Dave on all ARES matters.

This will remain in effect until such time as a new EC from Allegheny County is permanently assigned.

I want to thank Dave for going the extra mile and handling EC duties for 2 counties. Allegheny County has been without an EC since October 1999. I felt it in the best interest of the Assistant EC's and the ARES group of Allegheny County to be able to work with an experienced EC until such time as a permanent replacement is found for that spot.

The Forgotten "Q" Signals

Kip Hutchison VA3MM & the members of the KH2D DX Reflector

Some Q signals have never made it to the official list. Yet, you may agree after reviewing those listed here, that at least a few of these would be useful. As with regular Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark follows it.

- QLF: I'm sending with my left foot.
Are you sending with your left foot?
- QRC: Warning, rag chewer on frequency.
Are you a rag chewer?
- QOK: Your last transmission was okie dokie
Was my last transmission okay?
- QFH: This frequency is mine, Go elsewhere.
Is this frequency hogged?
- QBS: It's getting deep in here.
Did I tell you about the one that got away?
- QZZ: I fell asleep on an open mike.
Is that just 60 hertz hum, or are you snoring
- QBA: My antenna is big.
How big is your antenna?
- QHI: I'm jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.
Are you leaving after only one transmission?
- QBO: Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.
Buddy can you spare some soap?
- QCO: Calling CQ in Q signals.
"Is there any end to this madness?"
- QCW: I'm going to whistle Morse on Voice.
Why are you whistling Morse?
- QET: Phone home.
Has anyone called me from another planet?
- QGE: I bring good things to the party.
What good things do you bring to the party?

Contributed by W8UV:

- QTJ: I'm taking a quick trip to the john
Did you take a quick trip to the john?
- Special Caribbean DXpeditioners' Q signals, courtesy N9AG:
- QBAC: What is your Blood Alcohol content?
Take my car keys away.
- QSPF: What is the Sun Protection Factor of your sun tan oil?
I'm already burned to a crisp.

FCC Enforcement News

ARRLWeb Extra courtesy American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 16, 2000--The FCC has fined two Texas hams \$8000 apiece for allegedly interfering with a local repeater and failing to identify. Paul E. Holcombe, K4TOF, and Robert L. Myers, N5WLY, both of Houston, were notified last month by the FCC's Houston office. The fines come in the aftermath of an FCC investigation undertaken last year that involved the use of direction-finding equipment.



In each Notice of Apparent Liability, the FCC noted logging complaints of apparently intentional interference over a period of more than five years to the Memorial Emergency Repeater Association's 145.47 machine in Houston. The interference "was allegedly caused by stations transmitting unidentified tones, inflammatory or derogatory remarks, and unmodulated signals, none of which were identified with an FCC-assigned call sign," the FCC said.

In the wake of separate investigations last June, the FCC had cited Holcombe and Myers for alleged willful and malicious interference and failure to identify while operating on the 145.47 machine on separate occasions earlier in 1999. There's no indication from the FCC that the two men acted in concert, and the cases are being handled separately. Both operators were cited for violating §97.101 (d) and §97.119(a) of the FCC's Amateur Service rules.

In both cases, the FCC determined on the basis of its investigation that Meyers and Holcombe did "willfully and maliciously interfere" with communications in progress and failed to identify. The FCC said both violations were willful because transmissions were timed to coincide with those of other repeater users and each operator "sought to conceal his identity by altering the sound of his normal voice and omitting the required identification."

The FCC said it determined the amount of the fines by using the its forfeiture policy, which sets a base fine of \$7000 for intentional interference and \$1000 for failure to identify. In assessing such fines, the FCC said it takes into account the "nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity" of the violations as well as "the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require."

Both men were ordered to pay the fines within 30 days or to file written statements showing why the forfeitures should be reduced or canceled.



A SkyWarn Special Event Station, WX2PHI, will operate from the Mt. Holly, NJ office of the National Weather Service on March 19th, on 7.273, 14.273 & 28.373 MHz. QSL with SASE to: John Holmes WX3TAZ, 126A Worman Road, Bath PA 18014-9099

Silent Keys



Herb Johnson W6QKI, Founder of Swan & Atlas, February 1st
Jim Larsen K7GE, Founder, Larsen Antennas, February 2nd
Shirley Martin (wife of W3LUS), February 21st.

Atlantic Division Award Nominations Open

Bill Edgar N3LLR, Vice Director, ARRL Atlantic Division

Do you know someone who has really stood out in their service to amateur radio? That service could be in: technical abilities; public service; training; education, you name it. Wouldn't it be an honor for that individual or group to be recognized by their peers for their time and talents spent in good service to others?

Why not nominate them for one or more of the Atlantic Division Awards that they qualify for?

Atlantic Division awards are presented annually to the hams who make us proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service. Nominations are taken from the ham community. Selection is made by an Awards Committee chaired by the Division Vice Director. The awards are conferred at the annual Division Convention. Amateurs of any license class may be nominated.

The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, shift a nomination made in one award category to another, in order to honor a larger number of worthy nominees.

AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Radio Amateur in the Atlantic Division whose record merits recognition for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. He or she is active on the air and in Amateur Radio organizations. The Amateur of the Year is an all-round Amateur, whose activities, attitudes, and achievements serves as an example to others. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities & family life. The Amateur of the Year exemplifies the "Amateur's Code."

In selecting the award recipient, emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge, and outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio in the year preceding nomination.

GRAND OLE HAM

The Radio Amateur in the Atlantic Division whose outstanding record merits recognition for lifetime contributions to the

Amateur Radio service. Like the Amateur of the Year, the Grand Ole Ham is an all-round Amateur, an OM or YL whose activities, attitudes, and achievements may serve as a guiding example to others. At the time of nomination, nominees must either have been licensed Radio Amateurs for at least 30 years, OR, be at least 50 years of age. Emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, and evidence of continuing self-challenge via Amateur Radio. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee, not necessarily every year.

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Radio Amateur(s) in the Atlantic Division whose technical excellence exemplifies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science, rather than self. Particular value will be placed on evidence of continuing contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. Groups of two or more Amateurs may be nominated for a joint award in this category. Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as the following: publications, research and development, creativity in hardware/firmware/software, systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee, not necessarily every year.

The award nomination form is available at the web site <http://www.bfdin.com/atlantic/awardfor.htm>. If you can't get the form via the web, send a request to:

Bill Edgar N3LLR,
ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director
22 Jackson Avenue
Bradford, PA 16701

Know someone
in WASH or
another club
who deserves
some special
recognition for
everything
they did last
year?

Here's your
chance to try
and see if they
can get it!

Nostalgia

Dean Norris K7NO dnorris@k7no.com

I recently ran across the 1957 **CQ** that featured Lloyd Colvin on the cover. I looked at the magazine page-to-page and marveled at the price of gear. Also interesting was a Survey that CQ took. Here are some stats from that era:

Cross Section Transmitter

W1 5.6%	W7 6.3%	Johnson 29.5%	Gonset 5.4
W2 11.8	W8 9.4	Heath 20.6	Central 4.3
W3 6.8	W9 9.5	Collins 8.9	B & W 4.1
W4 10.3	W0 8.9	Elmac 7.8	Hallicrafter 1.7
W5 9.9	VE 1.7	Harvey-Wells 4.8	
W6 13.6	DX 1.1	WRL 5.7	26 Others 7.2

Receivers

Hallicrafters 33%	National 27	Hammarlund 12
Collins 10	Misc 5	RME 3
Surplus 10 (Newcomers: have an OT explain that term)		

CQ Department List

DX 66.8%	Scratchi 76.6% (My all time favorite!)
VHF 61.8	Letters 75.2 SSB 49.0 QSL Con. 54.8
RTTY 20.4	Surplus 71.2 (there's that word again)
Prop 77.0	Puzzler 40.0 YL 43.0 Classified 68.4
Novice 64.0	New Prods 89.4 Edit. 79.4 Advertising 82.8

Wayne Greene, W2NSD, was the editor and... well, let's just leave it at that. Dick Spenceley, KV4AA(SK) was DX Editor.

Prices: KWS-1 \$2095.00, 75A4 695.00, Callbook 4.50, NC-300 399.00



On the air:

HKOAI	VQ9HAY	C3CG
FQ8AY	FW8AA	FP8AY
VE3AHU/SU	HE9LAC	MP4KAC
SVOWE	ZM6AS	VS1BB

Hope no one minds this little trip through nostalgia land.
DX IS!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2000



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

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

1st Qtr **2nd Qtr** **3rd Qtr** **4th Qtr**
Jan-Mar **Apr-Jun** **Jul-Sept** **Oct-Dec**

- (F1) Full Membership: \$20.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 \$5.00
- (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: \$10.00 \$7.50 \$5.00 \$2.50
- (A1) Associate Membership: \$10.00 \$7.50 \$5.00 \$2.50

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

License Class: _____

City, State: _____

Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
C/O Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "Ham Threads" Embroidered Shirts, Jackets and Hats



Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost
Sub-Total					
Shipping					
Total Enclosed					

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

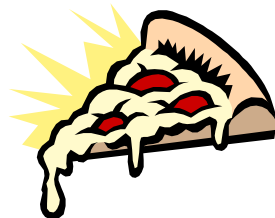
Additional Costs:
Add Name & Call above Club Logo: \$4
Add Name & Call opposite Club Logo: \$8

Prices, availability & available colors subject to change without notice.

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

Make checks payable to "Ham Threads"
Mail to: Ham Threads
PO Box 679,
Perry, MI 48872
Email: dbirdsley@aol.com
Phone: 517-625-5037

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
www.washarc.org



Ready for our Traditional
Post-Hamfest Pizza Night?
(Sorry, no anchovies)

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



Inside This Issue:

- WASHFest 2000 & W2K Wrapup
- More WASHFest Pictures
- Atlantic Division Award Nominations Open
- The Missing "Q" Signals?
- A Little Tidbit from AT&T Tech Support

And that's just for starters
... naturally!



**W2K Special Event Station
on the air from WASHFest 2000!
Shown: John KE3XB & Paul NØVLR**
Photo courtesy KE3XB ©2000 Dr. John Benitez KE3XB
More on WASHFest 2000 Inside!