



WASHRAG

TM

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May 2000



N3SH
WA3SH

www.washarc.org

Wireless Association of South Hills

Field Day 2000: One Month & Counting!

Well, plans are shaping up for our Y2K Field Day festivities. Our site has been lined up. This year we will be at a pavilion at the top of Mount Lebanon Park, behind the Mt. Lebanon High School complex.

Now then, what are the chances of someone volunteering to help out with the food-and-drinks end of the deal? I'm not looking for someone to slave over a hot grill all weekend long, but merely someone who would be willing to coordinate the purchase of the necessary ingredients for our weekend in the park.

Our equipment list is beginning to look pretty good, too, but we could always use more radios, batteries, cable, etc. (Maybe some computers for logging?? Just a thought.)

Anyway, I think you get the point. Anybody with equipment to loan us for the weekend will not be turned away! We're going to try to operate Class 2A Battery again this year, and if we have enough operators and equipment, we'll go for Class 3A Battery. It's also time to start thinking about when you can come out to Field Day and for how long, so that we can schedule appropriately. This is also a good time to think about ordering a club shirt if you don't already have one, so that we make a good impression on the visitors that we will be getting during the day on both Saturday and Sunday!

Now, on a more personal note. Anybody in the club who knows me, knows all about the crazy travel schedule I've had to put up with this year. I have just not had the time available to devote to this project that I should have. It is important to me that we have another good Field Day this year. (And I hope it is to you too!) Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members in the club who have just about reduced my workload to just about ZERO on this project. Thank you Steve, W3SRL, Bill, W3WH, and Ron WN3VAW. If I have missed anybody, please do not be offended; it's just that I have been playing phone-tag with Ron, and I may not have everybody else's name. My schedule is starting to settle down, and in the coming weeks I will have more time to devote to this.



73 & CUL de Greg Babin KQ3DX
Field Day 2000 Coordinator
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. N3SH/WA3SH

Next Meeting: May 11th, 2000

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, May 11th, 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.

We'll be talking about our plans for Field Day, Dayton Hamvention, and the Breezeshooter's Hamfest, along with our other plans for summer activities.

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

ARRL Web Access Disrupted by Cyber-Vandal

Access to the ARRL Web site (<http://www.arrl.org/>) was disrupted April 24th by an unknown individual when those attempting to connect to the site were shunted to another site, apparently in Canada. Some who attempted to access the site on Monday, April 24th and Tuesday, April 25th were greeted by an obscene message and the statement "Pirate radio for life, baby."

ARRL Information Services Department Manager Don Durand said the League's "**arrl.org**" domain name was illegally modified at Network Solutions [which registers domain names] and redirected to the bogus site. "Network Solutions was promptly notified of the illegal change, and they, in turn, returned our record to the correct settings."

Network Solutions was alerted to the problem the morning of April 24th. Durand said it takes up to 48 hours for the various name servers on the Internet to update their records. "At this time, we're simply waiting for that propagation to be completed," he said.

The ARRL Web site itself was not "hacked," and no ARRL files were damaged as a result of the vandalism. "Our domain was hijacked at Network Solutions," Durand emphasized. "At no time was our Web server compromised."

The vandalism did disrupt e-mail service to

(Continued on page 9)

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Schedule of Events

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

NCS Schedule:

- ⇒ May 7th: Bill W3VHW
- ⇒ May 14th: Rich N3SFB
- ⇒ May 21st: TBA
- ⇒ May 28th: Ron WN3VAW

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Breezeshooters Hamfest** June 4th
- **2nd Annual WASH Cookout at Breezeshooter's Hamfest!**
- **Field Day** June 24th-25th
- **WASHFest 2001** February 25th, 2001

May 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Greater Pgh VHFS Mtng Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARC Net	2 SH Brasspounders Mtng Skyview RS Meeting Carnegie Tech RC Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting North Hills ARC Club Net	3 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nt. Allegheny Co Skywarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	4 WACOM Meeting Breezeshooters Meeting RA Erie Meeting	5 Elco RS Meeting	6 RA Erie VE Tests N. Hills ARC Elmer Net
7 Ellwood City ARA Meeting	8 Bum of the Month Lunch AR League of Lawrence Co Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net	9 Foothills ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&KC Mtng Punxsatawney ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Club Net	10 North Hills ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nt. Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES 101 Q Net	11 WASH Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Mtng Horseshoe ARC Meeting	12	13 2 Rivers Ham'nEggs Bkfs N. Hills ARC Elmer Net
14 Mother's Day	15 Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARC Net 101 Q Net	16 Steel City ARC Meeting Skyview RS Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Mtng Pymatuning ARC Meeting	17 So PA ARC Meeting Huntington Co ARC Mtng Allegheny Co Skywarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	18 Breezeshooters Dinner Triple "A" ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting	19 Dayton Hamvention 2 Rivers ARC Meeting	20 Dayton Hamvention N. Hills ARC Elmer Net
21 Dayton Hamvention Elk County ARC Meeting	22 Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARC Net 101 Q Net	23 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Club Net SATERN Net	24 North Hills ARC Activity Ft. Armstrong WA Mtng Steel City ARC Social Nt. Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	25 WACOM Board Meeting	26	27 N. Hills ARC Elmer Net
28	29 Memorial Day Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARC Net	30 North Hills ARC Club Net SATERN Net	31 Steel City ARC Social Nt. Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES 101 Q Net	6/1 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting	6/2 Elco RS Meeting	6/3 RA Erie VE Tests N. Hills ARC Elmer Net

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 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 W3VHW
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, its members, or its 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 its members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test July 20th!

Our Next VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 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 VEC affiliated. Morse code exams are multiple-choice. Walk-ins are always 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)

April WASH VE Exam Session Results

April 6, 2000

New Novices:

Larry Manuel
 Jennifer Tater
 Robin Thomas

New Technicians:

Christopher Young
 Paul Vogrin (age 10)

Element 1C CSCE:

Ray Renninger, K3ECZ

Element 3B CSCE:

Kevin Maiers, N3ROX
 Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
 Edgar Payne, N3HWU
 Harold Rosenberger, KB3CPI
 Franklin Speicher, K3FSS

Element 4B CSCE:

Greg Babin, KQ3DX
 Gerald Evans, WA6SVJ
 Mark Malik, N3TAW

Attendance:

16 Candidates
 13 VE's

April 20, 2000

New Technicians:

Joel Bussard

New Technicians w/HF:

Carson Christopher

New Generals:

Bryan Beyer, WB4OXC
 Dave DeMotte, N3IDH
 William Kweder, N3XHV
 George Lang, KA3JZR
 Kevin Maiers, N3ROX
 Sam Mayberry, W3CYO
 John O'Neill, WA3KUK
 Robert Saxman, KB3BMF
 Robert Stoner, KB3EPC
 William Zeitz, WA3VSS

New Extras:

Greg Babin, KQ3DX
 Jackie Gosselin, N3ZEL
 Robert Ketzell, KB3IN
 Mark Malik, N3TAW
 William Popp, K3RKS
 Glen Roberts, KE7FD
 John Russell, N3JYF
 James Workley, N3KJJ

Attendance:

21 Candidates
 10 VE's

Congratulations to all of the candidates at both sessions! And a special "thanks" for all of their hard work to all of the WASH VE Team members who came out for one or both nights of April testing.

N3SH Update! Our long patience has been rewarded! The FCC database, effective Wednesday, April 19th, shows N3SH as one of the club calls of the Wireless Association, and Steve W3SRL as it's trustee. [QRZ?, UALR, and others now do too.] It's taken 4 months, with the ULS situation not helping, but it's finally done. WASHNet NCS stations can immediately resume using N3SH while running the nets if they so desire, as had been our custom. Our thanks, once again, to Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH and his staff at the FCC, without whose help and expertise this may not have occurred.

Is "The Packeteer's" the upcoming sequel to "The Rocketeer"?

Speaking of well-deserved thank-you's, thanks to Chuck KC3ET and Gino WA3IOU of the SWPA Digital Group for their excellent Packet Radio presentation at our March club meeting. (Hint to other clubs: Book these guys!)

1999 Field Day Pins Outstanding:

Mark N3RDV is still holding 1999 Field Day pins for four members of the operating crew! If you are due for a pin and haven't received it yet, please contact Mark ASAP. He will have them available at the May meeting for you to pick up.



New PA QSO Party Chairman: Doug W3HDH has resigned from his second tour of duty as the Pa QSO Party chairman, as he is taking a new job out of state (Good luck Doug, we'll miss you!). The Nittany ARC has appointed Woody Brem K3YV as his successor for the 2000 contest. Congratulations Woody!

April 28th Close Call: Responding to a routine fire call by Steve W3SRL and his shift, turned out to be the discovery of the first victim of the April 28th shooting rampage. They probably missed the murderer by a few minutes. As tragic as the day was for all of the victims and their families, we must admit to relief that no harm came to our friends on the Mt. Lebanon fire & police crews.

WACOM Hamfest VE Tests: Several members of the WASH VE Team ended up lending a hand to our friends in WACOM during their VE Test session at the WACOM Spring Hamfest. Anytime guys, and we're glad you're hamfest was a success! On a related note, congratulations to Paul NØVLR for winning the main prize, a 2 Meter Quad from Lightning Bolt Antennas. Mike Duddy told Paul that in 12+ years of donating prizes & discounts, Paul is the first person to ever say "thanks" for a prize he won! Well Mike, be advised that WE all appreciate all of your prize donations to SHARCfest/WASHfest and over local hamfests over the years!

Report from Natrona Heights: Bill N3INT reports from our Northern Outpost that his new bride Susie passed her Tech Plus license and is awaiting her call sign. Great news Bill! Now don't forget to include Susie when you renew your membership for the year <g>!

Club Logo Shirts: With Dayton, Breezeshooters, and Field Day all coming up, why not look sharp with a club logo golf shirt? TLC Embroidery can now do the "true" club logo on a shirt for \$20 (see page 11) and Ham Threads will be at Dayton, taking orders for hats and jackets. Now is the time to order... don't delay!

Sign Up for the Electronic Edition! wa3sh-subscribe@egroups.com

Minutes, April 11th 1999 Meeting

Steve Lane W3SRL Vice President/Secretary WASH

Meeting was called to order by WN3VAW at 19:00 local time. There were 14 members present and 4 guests.

Introductions were made, as is our custom, followed by a moment for Silent Keys and other deserving persons.

The minutes of the March 9, 2000 meeting were read and approved. N3QMV / W3WH.

Secretary: WA3SH call sign is now in ULS database. N3SH to follow.

VE Team: KE3XB — Session on April 6, gave 23 elements, 16 candidates. Another session to be on the 20th of this month. Last area VE session under old rules in Plum Boro, April 14th at 7PM on Center-New Texas Road for actual testing, followed by a paperwork only session at midnight just to process all those CSCEs that have been piling up. Ed, N3UE reported a Breezeshooters VE session on Saturday, April 15th at Noon at their location on Perry Highway.

Repeater: W3SRL — The move is on! 440 going to move first, then the 2m machine. Mt. Lebanon is going to pay the freight for the move.

Treasurer's report: N3RDV — Read and accepted.

2 Meter FM Net: WN3VAW for KQ3DX — Need Net Control Stations, as usual. Greg apologizes for his work-related absence.

10 Meter Digital Net: KE3XB reported some limited activity. Hoping to get PSK-31 on line, and to do that during the net.

Contests: Field Day: Need to nail down a site for Field Day. WACOM invited us to do a joint FD this year, and Mineral Beach is still an option. The Lion's Club Field is also an option, if it is available. W3WH offered to check into the Lion's Club site. Elevation is very good, and there is a nice shelter there. W3WH was appointed the quartering party of one for Field Day. He will secure a site.

Other contests: WN3VAW – Thanks for the great effort at CQ WPX contest from his QTH. Also, the certificate is here for the PA QSO contest. We placed first for Clarion County Multi-op Category with 207 QSO's.

Old Business: None

New Business: N4MIS reported a new FREE ISP called Blue Light.COM.

Good of the Order: WN3VAW reported on the upcoming public-service events in the area. WACOM Hamfest is April 30th.

Motion to Adjourn: W3WH / N3QMV and carried unanimously.

Presentation on Packet Radio by Chuck, KC3ET and Gino, WA3IOU.

Enroute to Hamvention?

Frequencies to Monitor:

- 146.520 Simplex on the Road
 - 146.955 Simplex at HARA Arena
- Dayton Area Repeater Frequencies
Chart on Page 10

WASH 2000 New & Returning Members

K3LIE	N3CCC	N3TES	N3ZNI	Carol Danko
KA3JZR	N3IDH	N3UE	N4MIS	Dan Mohr
KA3WZO	N3KEH	N3UIW	NP2JF	JoAnn Cottrill
KB3CPI	N3KFD	N3VVL	W3RJM	Marilyn Nizinski
KB3DCO	N3MJQ	N3VWF	W3SRL	
KB3DSD	N3OBD	N3WPT	W3VFA	2000 Annual Dues Paid
KB3ECD	N3QMV	N3XFE	W3WH	Through April 30 th
KE3XB	N3RDV	N3YPB	WB3BPH	
KQ3DX	N3RHT	N3YQY	WN3BOJ	List compiled by
NOVLR	N3RNX	N3ZEG	WN3VAW	Mark Stabryla N3RDV
N2QIV	N3SBF	N3ZEH		Vice President/Treasurer
N3BSQ	N3TBK	N3ZEL		

ARRL Atlantic Division 2000 Award Winners

Bernie Fuller N3EFN, Director, ARRL Atlantic Division
Bill Edgar N3LLR, Vice Director, ARRL Atlantic Division



The Atlantic Division ARRL is pleased to announce the winners of the 2000 Atlantic Division awards.

The **Amateur of the Year** is **Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH**, from Gettysburg, PA. Riley is an ARRL member. As Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement of the Federal Communications Commission, Riley has been leading enforcement on the Amateur frequencies. Almost every ham who wanted the amateur bands cleaned up has heard of him, and some of those that didn't clean up their act on the air have also heard of and, quite possibly from, Riley.

He's tried some new ideas to encourage compliance with Part 97 rather than coming down hard on those in violation of the rules. As a fellow amateur radio operator, Riley shares a passion for wanting our hobby to grow and for it to last for future generations.

The **Grand Ole Ham** lifetime service award for 2000 goes **Bill Thompson W2MTA**, from Newark Valley, NY. An ARRL member, Bill has been actively involved with the leadership of both the Western New York Section and the National Traffic System. His dedication to Amateur Radio goes well beyond his duties as Section Manager and the National Traffic System. He is one of the hams to work satellite operations in its early stages; he is an avid, expert CW operator; and has been involved with packet radio operations from its beginnings.

While he has "retired" as Section Manager of Western New York after 20 years, he remains in active leadership positions with the National Traffic System. Amateur Radio thus continues to provide a challenge to him, and continues to receive the benefit of his expertise in this vital aspect of the hobby.

The **Technical Achievement** award for 2000 goes to **Frank Bauer KA3HDO**, living in Silver Spring, MD with his wife Janet, and their 3 children. Frank is an Electronics Engineer, and a graduate of Perdue University, earning both the BSEE and MSEE degrees.

Frank is an active ham and served as Vice President of the Goddard Amateur Radio Club for the past two years. He is also active in Club programs including education and outreach, in Field Day, and in AMSAT. He is also a member of the ARRL. Frank is Vice President for Human Space Flight Operations, working on ARISS Program and other Ham Radio-in-space related activities. In his AMSAT role, he is actively involved in activities such as the Phase III-D environmental testing, which took place at Goddard's Building 7&10 Testing Complex late last fall. He is also Vice Chairman of the SAREX/ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) working group and is responsible for the acquisition, integration and testing of the ARISS Permanent Equipment Sets (VHF and UHF radio(s), cables and antenna sets for the Astronauts and Cosmonauts on the Space Station) to be flown later this year on the Space Shuttle and permanently installed on the Russian FGB Module early in 2001.

The 2000 awards will be officially conferred at the Atlantic Division Convention, held in conjunction with the Rochester, NY, Hamfest on June 2nd through June 4th, 2000.

John on Books

John Benitez KE3XB

Global Communications Since 1844: Geopolitics and Technology
Peter J Hugill, John Hopkins University Press, 1999

This is a FASCINATING book! I obtained it for free, so don't have an accurate price for it — it runs approximately in the \$30 range. I have always been interested in history, geopolitics and the reason we do things or exist the way we do. Much can be learned from our history; not just US history, but from world history. This book combines these approaches but ties it in to *modern* communications since 1844.

The book is divided into the following eight chapters:

- Information technology, geopolitics, and the world-system
- Telegraphy and the first global telecommunications hegemony
- "The whole world kin": telephony and the development of the continental polity to 1956
- Radio telegraphy, radio telephony, and interstate competition, 1896-1917
- Challenges to British telecommunications hegemony: continuous wave wireless
- Military uses of radio communication: the development of communications, command and control
- Communications, command, and control in the war in the air: radar, World War II, and the slow transition to American power
- Telecommunications and world-system theory

It has an extensive glossary, a list of references, and a name and subject index. Just reading the table of contents started me drooling! World history and radio communications all rolled into one.

The first chapter was a brief review of communications theory. Not the stuff I had read about in ham or related books. More like stuff on the "cultural archetypes" of communications:

Type 1 - Durable (heavy and not very portable) communications media (e.g., stone, clay and parchment) allow cultures to control time. Such cultures express themselves best in architecture and sculpture. They tend to be decentralized geographically but to have hierarchical social systems and systems of government.

Type 2 - Ephemeral (light and easily portable) communications systems (e.g., papyrus and paper) allow cultures to control space. Such cultures express themselves best in administration and trade. They tend to be centralized geographically but to have relatively less hierarchical social systems and systems of government than cultures using Type I systems.

Heavy stuff. Never thought of countries or culture in those terms. Sort of makes sense as you start to think or it. The author reminds us that no culture or country uses one system exclusively, but more on how different elements within a culture use one or the other systems...

The book goes on to describe telegraphy as it developed across the world, and the politics behind it. Interesting! Already the different countries tried to control geopolitics by controlling telegraphy communications..., then telephony communications..., then cable communications..., etc.

A fascinating story to me, was how transoceanic cables were controlled, and used prior to and during W.W.I to discover the intents and actions of warring nations; and soon to be warring nations (USA).

The book then goes on into the W.W.II and subsequent areas and the development of communications, command and control systems. Wonderful description of the development of radar by warring countries: initially Great Britain and Germany. How the USA got into the radar business is an interesting story you should read!



The book then discusses several theories of future communications and "who controls it." The actual and planned fiber optic transoceanic phase, megalopolises and future megalopolises, and the transnational control of communications are discussed. An interesting phase of the communications & communication controversies that we're heading into.

Amazing that the "communication revolution" is not starting now as many in the popular press describe. It is ongoing! Great reading! Enjoy!

"Don'ts"

An amateur wireless operator's guide cut from a magazine and found in a stack of papers, c. 1925

From The Telegraph Office Web Page by Neal McEwen K5RW
Courtesy of Jcqque Gosselin N3ZEL

- Don't try to transmit without a license.
- Don't connect the lightning-switch to an inside ground.
- Don't forget that tube sets are far more efficient than crystal sets. Don't use iron for an aerial.
- Don't handle the crystals of your set.
- Don't forget to keep the aerial & lead-in insulated from all other objects.
- Don't try to get a fine adjustment while touching the detector with bare hands.
- Don't expect to get good results with an aerial less than 100 feet long or low down among other buildings.
- Don't fail to make good connections.
- Don't run your aerial parallel with electrical wires, elevated tracks or steel bridges.
- Don't forget to scrape off the insulation and have wires bright before making connections.
- Don't forget that a good ground is necessary.
- Don't cover joints with adhesive tape; use "spaghetti" or varnish cambric tubing wherever possible.
- Don't try to use your instruments just before, just after, or during a thunder storm.
- Don't oil any portion of a set.
- Don't be discouraged if the first galena crystal you try is not very sensitive. Try a number of pieces.
- Don't blame your set until you are sure it is not your fault that something is wrong.
- Don't rush blindly at the set and turn knob and handles hit or miss if anything goes wrong. Be calm and patient and go slowly. Haste makes waste in radio as in all things.

The Hollow State: Frequently Asked Questions

Don Merz N3RHT

Hello! This page last month inaugurated a new regular column in *WASHRag* on old time ham radio. My focus will be on ham radio as it was. But I will also discuss collecting, restoration and personalities of times gone by. My hope is that something I write about will spark your interest because this hobby has a wonderful history.

By way of introduction, I am 47 years old, a new WASH member and a 5-year new ham. I have been collecting old ham gear and other early electronics for about 7 years. I am blessed with a wonderful family that includes 8 kids ranging in age from 9 to 21. I haven't been able to interest any of them in ham radio yet. But there's still time.

My primary boatanchor equipment interests are 1930's ham gear, homebrew tube gear and mechanical RTTY gear. I also like armchair boatanchoring and enjoy researching the people that built this hobby and the equipment they developed. So you will see all that reflected here.

In this column, I want to dispose of the most commonly asked questions about collecting boatanchors. So here goes.

What's It Worth?

Despite what you sometimes hear, you have a much higher chance of getting rich playing the PA lottery than you do of selling a boatanchor for more than the cost of a single car payment. Some boatanchors are worth a few thousand dollars--but very few. 97% are worth less than \$350 and that assumes excellent, original cosmetic condition, though it need not be working (or even tested!). Virtually all boatanchors are worth less today (in today's vastly-depreciated dollars) than what they cost originally. Beyond those generalities, I will be happy to answer specific boatanchor price questions at merz.ds@mellon.com. I can also point you to specific price guides and other resources if that is useful. I very seldom buy any new boatanchors though so please don't take my price estimates as an offer to buy!

Okay, so how do I sell it?

Either at a hamfest or online. Hamfests are the easiest way because there's no packing or shipping involved. Shipping a 120 pound boatanchor is nobody's idea of fun. But you almost always pay for this by having to take a lower price for the boatanchor. There's the trade-off: Is the aggravation and risk of packing and shipping worth more than the difference in what you can get for the rig? If you choose the online route, I suggest an eBay auction. Be sure to use keywords that buyers will find when they do general searches. So for example, use "Old Johnson Ham Radio Transmitter" instead of "Johnson Ranger Two Boatanchor." If all of this is new to you, contact me and I will help you through it.

Can I Just Plug It In?

No, you can't. The sudden surge of juice through the old buzzard might destroy it when there is really nothing wrong beyond normal aging. The minimum that you must do is bring



the voltage to the radio up very slowly on a variable transformer (the trade name is Variac). This process should take a minimum of several hours and a die-hard would say it should take several days. As you slowly increase the voltage applied, you must somehow

monitor the current drawn to make sure that it does not exceed what you expected. And never touch any metal part while doing this. The chassis might be hot and it might like to ground itself through your body--definitely undesirable. That's the minimum. I'll describe a much better process in a

later column. For now, just remember that you can't "just plug it in."

Will You Fix It For Me?

No. But I can tell you where to take it. The choice of repair shop will vary depending on what is being repaired. And you may have to ship it, so be prepared for that. But please don't hesitate to ask where to take repairs. I sometimes have my stuff professionally repaired or restored just to save my time.

See you next month with an article on those great old radio magazines.

Photo of a "typical" 1959 Hallicrafters station courtesy of & ©2000 Hallicrafters Collectors Association

Hmmm... Now About those "Weather Balloons"

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) -- A hacker disrupted service for 36 hours to the Web site that displays detailed satellite images of [Area 51](#), the top-secret Air Force site in Nevada. Raleigh-based Aerial Images Inc. said the hacker struck six hours after five images of the desert proving ground were loaded onto the site, <http://www.terraserver.com>. The attack, combined with traffic 10 times what the site usually bears, meant millions of people had difficulty accessing the site or could not connect with it at all.

The Air Force only recently acknowledged that Groom Dry Lake Air Force Base even exists. Among UFO aficionados, it has long been known simply as Area 51, the base's designation on old Nevada test site maps. They believe that unidentified flying objects from other worlds are hidden there.

Where Everybody Knows Your Name...

Members of the Nittany ARC in State College met on February 24th with the Centre County Radio Advisory Board to discuss Amateur Radio and its contributions to emergency communications. The board consists of the three County Commissioners and several representatives of emergency services.

County Commissioner Bierly was very happy to finally meet one of the NARC members, Wilbur Files W3SAY. Bill's name had become over the years all too well known to the Commissioner.

The Commissioner was the District Justice for many years, and he reminisced that during his tenure, the PA State Police were required to testify that their radar guns had been calibrated by Bill as required by law. This was a required element of the offense, and if the Trooper forgot, they lost the hearing. Mr. Bierly had heard about Bill hundreds if not thousands of times!

— Carmine Prestia K3CWP courtesy of the Nittany ARC Newette

You have a much higher chance of winning the lottery than selling a boat anchor for more than a car payment

Code Blues

Ray Higgins W2RE w2re@bestweb.net (Courtesy of Bob Ferrey N3DOK)

I have a problem with my town code enforcer. I need advise about this situation.

In 1996 I installed 3 towers, with permission from my town board. I was lucky as it cost me only \$800.00 in permits. At a board meeting in 1996, the town board unanimously agreed to the terms of the towers. Also, in the minutes of the meeting the board agreed that interference would not be my problem and affected resident are required to install filters.

I have had one neighbor with interference problems. I have spent at least \$100+ dollars to correct any problems, installing filters and buying telephones, etc. I did the installing of filters at the neighbors house. I have spent many hours correcting the situation leading up to summer of 1999. In 1999 the neighbor became hostile about interference in their security system and demanded that I stop transmitting. This is were it starts to get ugly.

I refused to stop transmitting and also told the neighbor to correct the problem with the filters that I had given to them. Well, that wasn't good enough. So, the summer of 1999 is the last time I spoke to the neighbor.

I recently operated in the 2000 ARRL DX SSB Contest. The day after, a different neighbor contacted me. The neighbor with interference was going around the neighborhood with a town petition. He was to getting neighbors to sign it and planned to present it to the town board.

Keep in mind that I live in the suburbs of NYC where it's 2 acre zoning. These neighbors are spread apart. I have no idea how many signed the petition, but it was presented to the town board. The town board said it would look into the matter.

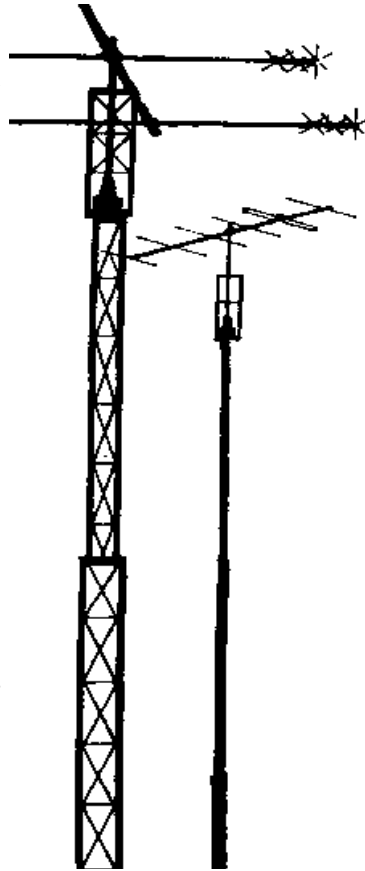
A week after the town board meeting I receive a phone call from the local newspaper regarding the interference problem. I told the reporter that I'm not interested in making a statement. The reporter called a few days later and said that he is doing the article and is going to give the neighbors view only in the newspaper.

Well, I had no choice but to state the facts, I don't have anything to hide. I told the reporter that this interview would be on my terms. The terms would be to do the interview in my radio shack. This turned out to be I'm my favor as the reporter gave me an outstanding write-up in the newspaper and did his homework and called the FCC and spoke to John Winston, an Assistant Bureau Chief of the FCC. Also he used my photo QSL card on the front page of the article.

The only bad thing was the town Code Enforcer with his statement in the newspaper: Union Vale's Deputy Code Enforcement Officer John Caulfield tells a somewhat different story, that the town code prohibits interference and if there's a continued violation that he's told of then he'll contact Higgins. Caulfield said Higgins might possible be fined. He said he can't forbid

Higgins from broadcasting, but Higgins does have to conform to certain laws.

The Code Enforcer Now has sent me a CERTIFIED LETTER in the mail and it reads as following:



This letter is to inform you that this office has received a complaint concerning the use of your amateur radio equipment. Specifically, the complaint concerns interference with the neighbors ability to receive public broadcast (television, radio) signals and also that the interference may affect the operation of the security alarm system within their house.

During my recent inspection of the neighbors property and your antenna field, we had discussed the problem by telephone. At the time you indicated the PART 15 rules of the FCC and electronic devices. This is correct. However, you may have overlooked the fact that you are required to comply with PART 97 of the FCC rules which prohibits your interference with the Public Broadcast frequencies that your neighbors are attempting to receive.

PART 97 also indicates that once you are made aware of the fact that you may be interfering with public broadcast, you must cease interfering with such broadcast signals. **YOU MUST CEASE OPERATION.** A review of the FCC rules (47CFR97) indicate that you are also subject to possible restrictions of operation where the operation of the station **COULD CAUSE** human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields levels in excess allowed under sec 1.1310 of the code.

The enforcement of the FCC codes and any required testing and certification is enforceable by the FCC.

A copy of the original complaint is being forwarded to the Federal Communications Commission with request that they investigate the alleged interference with the public broadcast signals in the area, and the possible hazard to humans.

This Code Enforcer basically is threatening me to cease my operations.

In 1996 the town board knew the rules and regulations. The new board wants to restrict my operations. I'm looking for advice and considering filing suit against my town. Any help would be appreciated.

Lebanon, PA Bans Cellular Telephone Use While Driving

Jeremy Feiler courtesy Blair Bates K3YD

Lebanon, PA 3/31/2000 — If you're driving through Lebanon, PA on an appointment, making a call on your cell phone could cost you \$75.



Lebanon, a small city in central Pennsylvania, has joined Hilltown and

Conshohocken in banning cell phone use by drivers. Passed unanimously by the Lebanon City Council Monday, the law requires drivers to pull over while using handheld phones.

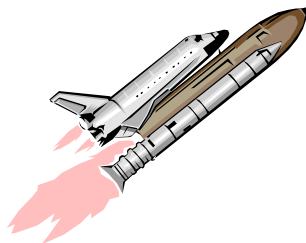
Brooklyn, Ohio, is the only other city in the United States that also bans drivers from using handheld phones. The Pennsylvania legislature is considering a statewide ban. For more information, see: <http://www.reji.com/archive/TRISTATE/2000/000331/000331-2.shtml>

Old Technologies Never Die

Original Author Unknown; Courtesy of Paul Lusardi NØVLR

What do the Space Shuttles have to do with the Roman Empire?

The US standard railroad gauge (width between the two rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates.



Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts

So who built those old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels, were first formed by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an imperial Roman war chariot.

Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.



Now the twist to the story and the answer to the original question:

When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs.

The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory at Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a Horse's Ass!

DX News Briefs

The Kingman-Palmyra DX Group will activate two rare Pacific entities, **Kingman Reef (KH5K) and Palmyra Atoll (KH5)**, this year.

Activation will occur in several phases over the summer and fall. "About 1000 miles south of Hawaii, Palmyra Atoll is privately owned, and is currently in the process of being sold. The sale offers both challenges and opportunities for our DXpedition team. Our operations will be coordinated with all parties to the transaction, and we expect to benefit from temporarily enhanced access to the area. Accordingly, we plan several moderate-scale operations at Palmyra over the next several months by elements of our team, on a flexible schedule. Equipment is already on its way in preparation for these operations. The culmination of the plan will be a full-scale, 10-band activation of Kingman Reef in October, 2000." — NI6T



3W7CW is experiencing difficulties with his PO Box in Warsaw, Poland. He cannot fix it while being in Vietnam. Please suspend all mailings to this address pending his further notification. — SP5EWY

The Bhutan 2000 DXpedition team went on the air as **A52A** with four stations at approximately 1200 Z on May 2nd. **A51TY** returned to the air on April 27th, and **VK9NS** has been operating as **A52JS**. All this thanks to the Bhutan Telecommunication Act 2000. Remember that A5 stations are limited to 100 W output at present. — A52JS, N4AA/QRZ DX, W3UR/The Daily DX

The **7O1YGF** operation went on the air on April 17th, but had to close down earlier than planned and the four operators returned home on April 27th. After returning, they stated in a press release that "after 10 days of activity we have been kindly asked by the authorities to terminate our radio transmission. The reason for that is that until now no agreement on the final status of this unique special activity could be reached ... the activity 7O1YGF is for the time being still in the process of approval" and a "written confirmation" is expected "in due time". The operation logged some 35000 QSOs on 6 – 40 Meters, CW, SSB and RTTY. There is an unresolved question in some DX circles as to whether or not the operation will be accepted for DXCC purposes. QSL via DJ3XD — DK1II via DK9KX

There will be several special event stations celebrating the end of WW II active from the Ukraine on May 5th thru 14th. Look for **EO55NWW** (QSL via UR4NWW), **EO55ZN** (via UY0ZG), amongst others. — UR5NX & UY2ZZ

W2ORA is NOT the manager for EI8GS and has never been. K2DX has never been the manager for any station. However, a Russian station has been heard giving his call as manager. — N2VW

5A1A can be reached at sanacat@usa.net. He can only check Email about every 10 – 14 days, so don't expect a quick answer. — K8PT

VP2EET cards go to PA5ET, not KZ2I — KZ2I, PA5ET

7X0AD via EA4URE, URE, POB 220, Madrid E-28080, Spain — KI4RU, RA3SL

L4 is a special prefix for LU calls; **L5** is a special prefix for LW calls. Substitute as appropriate when QSL'ing — PY1AFS



Allegheny County ARES News

MS 150 Bike Tour - 'Escape to the Lake'

We are looking for a coordinator and volunteers to help out with the MS 150 Bike Tour. The dates this year are June 10 & 11.

Accommodations are at Allegheny College for those able to stay over for the second day. All meals are included both days. If you are only able to help out the first day that's fine too.

For information and pictures from last year check out the website: www.nmss-pgh.org and click on the Bike Tour. Anyone interested should contact Mark at n3rdv@arrl.net

— Mark Stabryla N3RDV
WASH ARES Liason

Rapid Response Team

Once again I am asking for your assistance to recruit operators for the WPA Section Rapid Response Team.

As most of you know, the team is to supplement communications when local operators are either overwhelmed or unavailable. It is designed so that when deployed it will report to the local EC or DEC for instructions. The team leader will be responsible for coordinating the team, and reporting back to the local leadership as well as the DEC-RRT and SEC.

The team is set up to provide short term support, until operators from within the district or from other districts are available to assist. When necessary, the team may also assist outside of the section. The qualifications are currently being changed and will allow a wider range of operators and leadership positions to be eligible.

With our section being divided into districts, I would like to see operators from each district involved. This will give us team members close to each district for immediate deployment when possible. With the severe weather season rapidly approaching, I would like to increase the team's ranks to be better able to assist in the section. Anyone who feels they want to be a member of the team or who has questions regarding the team may contact me by the following:

Mark Seighman - N3HJY (724) 832-0182 home
452 Roosevelt Way (724) 830-3987 office
Greensburg, PA 15601-1447 (724) 830-3077 fax
mseighma@co.westmoreland.pa.us

Thanks for your support!

— Mark Seighman N3HJY
DEC Rapid Response Team

Silent Keys



Frank "Chip" Chepponis K3OQR, April 11th

FCC News

ARRLWeb Extra courtesy American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 19, 2000--The FCC says a lot of newly upgraded General class licensees have begun asking if they may operate in the current Advanced class subbands now that the new amateur rules are in place.

"The answer is: Absolutely not," said the Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. "No privileges changed for any license class." Cross pointed out that the Advanced class license did not cease to exist under restructuring, which went into effect April 15, although the FCC no longer accepts applications for Novice or Advanced class licenses. He said current Generals do not earn Advanced class privileges until they upgrade to Amateur Extra class, at which point they earn both Advanced and Extra privileges. The FCC also says General class operators may hold only Group C (1x3) or Group D (2x3) call signs, as it was under the old rules. Generals are not entitled to apply for or hold Group B (2x2) call signs under the new rules.



Cross cautioned newly upgraded licensees to check the revised Part 97 rules carefully to make sure they're not operating beyond their privileges. "Now that they've gotten the license, it's time to look at the real rules," he said.

Amateurs further are reminded that in order to apply for upgraded volunteer examiner privileges or for a vanity call sign reflecting new license status, a licensee first must have been issued an upgraded license grant by the FCC. Interim privileges conveyed by a *Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination*--or *CSCE*--are insufficient for these purposes.

Revised FCC Part 97 rules are available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/news/part97/>.

(Continued from page 1)

League staff and officials, however. Mail service was returning as servers were updated. The ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service was not affected.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said the League intends to investigate the disruption through all possible means. Haynie promised that the perpetrators, if caught, would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

— ARRLWeb Extra, ARRL Bulletin



FYI Networks, an Internet Service 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!

46th Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 4th 2000, 8 AM – 4 PM, Butler Farm Show Grounds

Radio Prizes to be Given Away:

- 1st Prize: ICOM IC-775
 2nd Prize: ICOM IC-756
 3rd Prize: ICOM IC-746
 4th Prize: ICOM IC-706
 5th Prize: ICOM IC-718
 6th Prize: ICOM IC-2800H
 7th Prize: ICOM IC-T81A
 8th Prize: ICOM IC-207H
 9th Prize: ICOM IC-W32A
 10th Prize: ICOM IC-T7H

Eleven Half-Hour Prizes: ICOM IC-T81A

- 1st Computer: 533 MHz Notebook
 2nd Computer: 500 MHz Pentium III Desktop

\$5.00 Per Person Admission Donation

Includes Small Prize Drawings during the Hamfest
 Children Under 12 Admitted Free

Tailgate / Flea Market Spaces available
 at \$5.00 Per Section

Direction & Talk-In 147.96/36 W3UDX Repeater
 Fly-In at Roe Airport

Early-Bird Mobile Check-In 146.520 Simplex

For More Information, Contact

Chairman: Ed Wolf N3UE wolfie@breezeshooters.net

For Inside Tables: Rey Whanger W3BIS

412-826-8006 w3bis@freewwwweb.com

Or Check the Breezeshooter's Web Site

www.breezeshooters.net

The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. N3SH/WA3SH announces

The 2nd Annual WASH Cookout at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Starting at about 11:00 AM until the food is gone!!

Look in the morning in the Flea Market for (usually) WN3VAW, WN3BOJ, KA3UPY, W3SRL and/or other club members set up together, usually not too far off the main entrance road.

It's a "pot luck" cookout; we're asking everyone to bring something (contact WN3VAW for details).

The cookout is open only to club members & invited guests, and there's no cost to join in.

Why stand in line to pay \$\$\$ for a warm hot dog and a flat Pepsi,
 when you can sit down with us, relax, and trade flea-market battle stories of the day?

More info available at the May meeting

DAYTON
hamvention

2 Meter Repeaters in & near Dayton, Ohio

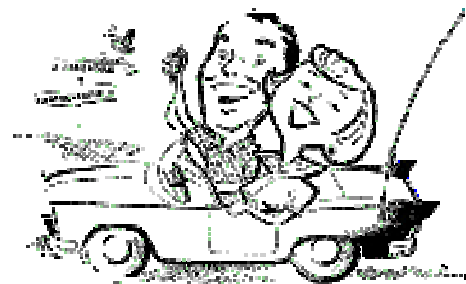
Thanks to Kevin DeRose N3KFD for compiling the information!

Remember:

- Monitor 146.520 Simplex on your way to Hamvention.
- Monitor 146.955 Simplex while at Hamvention

Want someone to travel with? WASH Members are leaving at various times on Thursday & Friday. Ask on the 146.955 and we'll hook you up with one group of travelers or another!

Dayton 145.11 -	WB4LAI	Phillipsburg	147.015 +	K4WXJ
145.49 -	W8CYE	Centerville	145.43 -	KD8SI
146.64 -	WB8CQ	Kettering	146.985 -	KA8PGJ
146.91 -	WB8CQ		147.135 +	WB8SMC
146.94 -	W8BI	Miamisburg	146.82 -	K8TDN
147.075 +	KB8ZAN		147.36 +	K8TDN
Vandalia 146.775-	W6CDR	Xenia	147.105 +	KB8III
Franklin 145.29 -	WB8ZVL		147.165 +	N8JFA
Fairborn 145.41-	W8NTY	Bellbrook	147.045 +	W8DGN



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

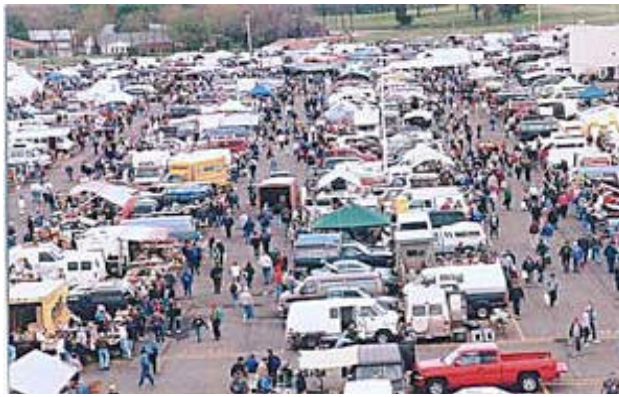


The WASHRag
Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
3505 Rosalia Avenue
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317

Inside This Issue:

- Congrats to the Atlantic Division Winners
- Congrats to all of the new Upgrades!
- Got your plans for Dayton in place?
- OK, got your plans for Breezeshooters?
- We have our Field Day Site!
- Guess what's been updated?
- More on the Hollow State!

All that and more... turn the page & enjoy!



See You At the
Dayton Hamvention
May 19th, 20th
and 21st, 2000

Photos courtesy of
and ©Copyright
1999, 2000
Greg Babin KQ3DX