



WASHRAG

TM

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April 2000



N3SH
WA3SH

www.washarc.org

Wireless Association of South Hills

"No Kids, No Lids, No Space Cadets!"

It was the rallying cry of a certain generation of hams... a clear message from some that a younger generation of operators who had gained their tickets under Incentive Licensing weren't wanted and would not be tolerated. And it wasn't a joke... some of these guys got downright nasty if you met that description (in their eyes & ears) and would try to run you right off the frequency in any way possible.

Which brings us to the restructuring of the Amateur Service that takes place April 15th. There are still many who are upset about the direction the FCC chose. (Although, since only about 2000 of the 750,000+ licensed amateurs in the US bothered to file comments, why this is was surprise is in itself an interesting mystery!) And there are some who are threatening to revive a modern-day version of that mantra against the wave of new & newly-upgraded amateurs taking advantage of the new rules.

That will be the exact wrong thing to do and one of the worst things to happen to Amateur Radio if it happens. So don't let it.

Whether or not you agreed with the FCC's decision, it's final. And if you didn't file comments (I did), it's too late to kvetch now. So if that's bothering you, set that anger and resentment aside, once and for all.

Unlike the well-intentioned Incentive Licensing fiasco of the '60's, no one is losing any frequencies, operating modes, or privileges. What we will be gaining is an influx of new amateurs eager to join us on HF, be it newly upgraded hams, newly re-activated hams, or newly licensed hams. Sure, HF will be a little more crowded (and have you noticed that HF activity is down compared to 5 or 10 years ago?). But that also means we'll have a lot more people to work, who'll be eager to help innovate, with new ideas on filters, antennas, operating modes & methods, and who knows what else? It will also bring activity back to our repeaters, more operators for special and public service events, and hopefully an influx of new members for WASH and other Amateur Radio clubs throughout.

Another maxim of the time was "use it or lose it!" If you don't think our VHF, UHF & microwave bands are threatened, think again. More active amateurs occupying our bands means that it's less likely that government and /or commercial interests will want to take them

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The Mountain Climbers of Mexico: The Official Story

As many of you know, several WASH members and a few others went on a climbing expedition to Mexico to climb three mountains. Their names are easy: Ixtazihuatl, La Malinche, and Citlatepetl (also known as Pico de Orizaba). As you will notice in the article that follows, abbreviations are common for the mountains, to simplify the names. The last mountain/volcano also happens to be the third highest mountain in North America, and also the highest volcano in North America, standing at just under 19,000 ft. Club members included: Samantha (AA3JS), Bob (AA3FI), Dick (N3QMV), Frank (N3XI), Paul (KB3DKO), and me, John (KE3XB).

I had sent some regular unexpected dispatches from Mexico to keep you all abreast of our adventure so I will not try to repeat this here. Instead, Paul (KB3DKO), has consented to reprint a letter he wrote to his family and friends about his experience which gives a nice perspective on the trip. In his letter he mentions everyone by first name, and I think you will recognize the players. Two people he mentions (Jay and Tim), joined the group but are not hams. We may have converted 1-2 others to our ranks after this trip!

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Next Meeting: April 13th, 2000

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, April 13th, 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. A demonstration of Packet Radio and other Digital Modes from the SWPA Digital Group is planned for the evening, courtesy of KC3ET and others in the group.

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

Schedule of Events

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

NCS Schedule:

- ⇒ April 2nd: Rich N3SBF
- ⇒ April 9th: Ron WN3VAW
- ⇒ April 16th: Paul N0VLR
- ⇒ April 23rd: Bob W3RJM
- ⇒ April 30th: TBA

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Dayton Hamvention May 19th, 20th, 21st
- Breezeshooters Hamfest June 4th
- WASHFest 2001 February 25th, 2001

April 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 WPA DXH&PDS Meeting RA Erie VE Test NHARC Elmer Net
2 <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> Ellwood City ARA Meeting	3 Greater Pgh VHF Society Bum of the Month Lunch Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service	4 Butler Co ARA Meeting Carnegie Tech RC Meeting SHBP&M Meeting Skyview Radio Society	5 Uniontown ARC Meeting Allegheny CO Skywarn Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	6 WASH VE Test WACOM Meeting Radio Assn. Of Erie Mtng.	7 <i>World Health Day</i> Elco Radio Society Mtng.	8 2 Rivers ARC Ham'nEggs Skyview RS VE Test Allegheny Co ARES Mtng NHARC Elmer Net
9 <i>Two Rivers ARC Hamfest</i>	10 AR League of Lawrence Co Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net	11 Foothills ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft. Venango Mike & Key Punxsatawney Area ARC	12 North Hills ARC Meeting Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Steel City ARC Social	13 WASH Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Mtg Triple "A" ARA VE Tests	14 Did you get your taxes done yet?	15 Breezeshooters VE Test (Actually, loads of special VE Tests this weekend) NHARC Elmer Net
16 Palm Sunday Elk County ARC Meeting	17 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	18 Steel City ARC Meeting Skyview Radio Society McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting	19 Passover So PA ARC Meeting Allegheny CO Skywarn Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	20 WASH VE Test Triple "A" ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Dinner	21 Good Friday 2 Rivers ARC Meeting	22 Butler Co ARA VE Tests NHARC Elmer Net
23 Easter	24 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	25 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting SATERN Net	26 Secretaries Day North Hills ARC Activity Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Steel City ARC Social	27 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting	28 Plum Boro VE Tests	29 Indiana Co ARC VE Tests NHARC Elmer Net
30 WACOM Hamfest WACOM VE Tests	5/1 Greater Pgh VHF Society Bum of the Month Lunch Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service	5/2 Butler Co ARA Meeting Carnegie Tech RC Meeting SHBP&M Meeting Skyview Radio Society	5/3 2 Rivers ARC VE Tests Allegheny CO Skywarn Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	5/4 WACOM Meeting Radio Assn. Of Erie Mtng.	5/5 Elco Radio Society Mtng.	5/6 WPA Hilltoppers VE Test RA Erie VE Tests NHARC 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 N0VLR
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, 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 Tests April 6th & 20th!

We will be holding Three VE Exam sessions in April on Two days. All will be held 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)

Our First April exam session will be **Thursday, April 6th**, starting at **7:00 PM**. This will be our last session under the pre-restructuring exam elements. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

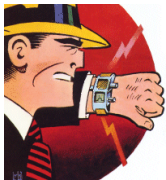
Our Second exam session will be **Thursday, April 20th**, starting at **6:00 PM**. This will be a paperwork only session for those only needing to file paperwork to qualify for an upgrade.

Our Third exam session will be **Thursday, April 20th**, starting at **7:00 PM**. If you are planning to take a post-restructuring test, this is the session to attend (even if you need to file paperwork for an upgrade). Pre-registration is strongly encouraged but not required.

It's the last year for Three Rivers Stadium... and it's time for another WASH expedition to a Pirate game!

We need 25 or more tickets to get a group discount.

Interested?
Contact
WN3VAW for
more info.



NEWS FLASH!

Late Breaking News:

There will be a meeting of Allegheny County ARES/RACES on

Saturday, April 8, 2000, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in the Allegheny County Emergency Operations Center, Situation Room, located at 400 North Lexington Avenue to plan our events for the year 2000. All Allegheny County ARES/RACES members, as well as other Radio Amateurs participating in public service events are encouraged to attend this meeting. — Bill Kristoff N3BPB

On a personal note, my thanks to everyone who dropped by during the CQ World Wide Prefix Contest to help operate my station, including Jacque N3ZEL, Ed N3ZNI, Bill W3WH, Paul NØVLR, Kevin N3KFD, a 3 year old & 2 spooked dogs. Everyone had a great time, even if we didn't make a lot of QSO's. We really enjoyed helping Kevin & Ed make their first HF QSO's. Thanks! We will do this again! — WN3VAW

From the desk of the WASH virtual librarian: We are currently seeking additions to the WASH virtual library. If you have any books, software, hardware or equipment for that matter, that you would like to offer to other club members, please contact Paul, NØVLR at n0v1r@arrl.net to add your items to the list.

The way the library works is: you hold on to your own materials. When/if someone is interested in borrowing an item of yours, then the librarian will contact the owner of the book/software/etc.. and figure out how to get that item to the borrower. It is up to the discretion of the owner of the material as to how long the item may be borrowed. — Paul Lusardi NØVLR

More WASHfest 2000 Thanks: In the rush to meet last month's deadlines, we neglected to thank all of the area radio clubs who also came to our hamfest (including WACOM, North Hills ARC, and Two Rivers ARC to name a few!) There's a very nice photo of the TRARC table at WASHfest in the March *Spark Gap*.

WASHNet Controls Needed: As always, the Sunday Night WASH Net is in need of Net Control Stations. NCS is not a tough job! You have 15 (OK, sometimes 20 or 25) minutes of fame if not fortune running the net, taking down check-ins and asking for comments. Contact Greg KQ3DX at kq3dx@hotmail.com or on the .955 repeater for more information or to volunteer.

Moving on up: As Bob W3RJM settles into his new home in Crafton (just remember Bob, you have a friend in borough council — Al KA3UPY), Steve W3SRL & Sandy N3ZEG are in the process of setting up their new home.. around the corner from their old one and about 35 or 40 feet higher in elevation. Steve's QRT from home until the new antennas are set up (his GAP has relocated to Paul NØVLR's home in Washington County) which might take a while. There's absolutely no truth to the rumor that he's borrowed an old MLFD ladder truck to use as a temporary tower...

N3SH Status: Well, we really hoped to have some good news by now. Not yet. Patience, they say, is a virtue, so we must continue to be virtuous a little while longer...



Field Day 2000 plans continue. Greg KQ3DX wants your input on any aspect of Field Day's past and thoughts for this year's event. Again, Paul NØVLR has offered his home (does NØWPV know?) for our use. Do you mind traveling almost an hour for Field Day, or do you have a site closer to home in mind? Also, Bill W3WH has suggested running a double- Field Day operation this year — QRO under one club call, QRP under the other. Do-able? And do we want to operate one FD location or two if we do this? These questions and more will be raised, maybe even answered, at our April club meeting... , email Greg at kq3dx@hotmail.com

Have you **paid your 2000 dues** yet? We'd hate to lose you! Really! Seriously, if you haven't paid your dues, you can't vote at meetings & Bob has to color you funny on the web site, so don't put it off...

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

Minutes, March 9th 1999 Meeting

Steve Lane W3SRL Vice President/Secretary WASH

Meeting was called to order by WN3VAW at 19:00 local time. There were 15 members and guests present.

Introductions were made, followed by a moment of silence for Silent Keys and other deserving persons.

Minutes of the February 10, 2000 meeting were read and approved. N3RDV/W3RJM.

Treasurer's report: Read & Accepted

VE Team: VE Sessions April 6 & 20.

Repeaters: N3RNK reported status quo. Some planned maintenance on the 2m machine coming up.

FM Net: WN3VAW for KQ3DX. Need ops, as usual.

Digital Net: NØVLR reports on/off again.

Secretary's report: Nothing much to report. The bill for our liability insurance is in, and passed to Mark, N3RDV for payment.

Contests: WN3VAW reports the WA3SH log is available from the Breezeshooters Groundwave contest (QSL to W3SRL). ARRL DX: No operators for a club station. CQ-WPX: WN3VAW looking for ops to operate from his QTH. Field Day: NØVLR offered his QTH again. Discussion on possible Field Day locations followed; a final decision to be made next month.

Hamfest: W3SRL & W3WH Great Job, everyone! We had a lot of happy hams on the morning of the 22nd, a lot of happy vendors later in the day, and a nice net profit for the club. Well done!

President: Donegal Sportswear split up, the new company is now TLC Embroidery. They plan to offer the same polo shirt as Ham Threads with a scanned club logo for less money.

Old Business: None

New Business: W3SRL brought up the subject of starting the meetings at 7:30 instead of 7:00. N3RDV said he is trying to get SWPA Packet group to do a demo at the April meeting. W3SRL requested that the club pay the \$20 dues to the WPA Repeater council for the 146.955 and 442.550 repeaters. W3WH / W3RJM and carried.

Good of the Order: The NASA downlink broadcast is now on Steel City ARC's ATV. Tune in Channel 58 on your cable-ready TV. Reminder of the upcoming WACOM hamfest April 30th.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:55 hours. Pizza consumption followed.

Planning to  attend?

Listen for WASH members on 146.955 MHz Simplex

AND... Confirm your room reservations TODAY!

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	W3VWH	Through March 23 rd
KE3XB	N3RDV	N3YPB	WB3BPH	
KQ3DX	N3RHT	N3YQY	WN3BOJ	List compiled by
NOVLR	N3RNK	N3ZEG	WN3VAW	Mark Stabryla N3RDV
N2QIV	N3SBF	N3ZEH		Vice President/Treasurer
N3BSQ	N3TBK	N3ZEL		

Thinking About a Cable Modem?

Randy York randall@who.net

I finally broke down a few weeks ago and bought my second computer. My first was purchased quite a few years ago, and was a very expensive 8088 PC with a whopping 20 MB hard drive. I don't really remember the amount of memory, but for some reason 16k comes to mind. When that machine just didn't cut it anymore, I began working with a series of castoffs and discards that I pushed into service with processor upgrades, drive upgrades, duct tape, and super glue. But now the new machine is a very nice Pentium III with all the bells and whistles. I decided to splurge when I got the new machine, and switched ISPs to a cable Internet provider.

All I really knew about cable Internet access was that it was supposed to be much faster – and it is. But I'd also heard comments questioning whether this means of connecting to the net was safe and secure. I asked the customer service rep that I ordered the service from, and she assured me that security was not a problem. But I asked the question again to the tech that installed the service, and he replied that he used firewall software. The question of security lingered in my mind, and I researched the software suggested by the installation tech. I talked to some folks at the office, and ended up buying and installing the software, called Black Ice Defender. There are other equivalent products out there, but I'd like to report on what I found after I installed the software.

First off, for a non-techie, the overall concept of installing a "firewall" was a bit daunting. This software installed easily, and configured itself properly on the first try, and began watching my back, so to speak. The results in the first week have been shocking! Maybe I was just a naive Internet user, but I could barely believe the amount of activity that the firewall recorded. Looking right now at the software, in the last 90 hours, I have had 170 "suspicious" attacks on my computer.

Many were legitimate – things like streaming audio bumping against a port when I switched sources or scans of the system by the ISP. A number of port probes during DUN sessions to the office email were also flagged. Here are some of the suspicious probes that the software stopped during the first few days:

Issue Name	Intruder IP	Intruder Name	Count
SubSeven port probe	208.61.109.71	adsl-61-109-71.sdf.bellsouth.net	1
UDP trojan horse	213.61.159.225	asd-dus225.dusnet.de	2
SubSeven port probe	24.8.167.7	Cx551361-a.escond1.sdca.home.	2
UDP trojan horse	204.180.118.67	max1-58.cei.net	1
Telnet port probe	152.174.132.193	98AE84C1.ipt.aol.com	4
FTP port probe	24.12.61.143	c399465-a.stcla1.sfbca.home.com	2
TCP port probe	24.112.182.2	Cr103569-a.lndn1.on.wave.home.	2
FTP port probe	24.24.40.247	d181828f7.rochester.rr.com	2

This is averaged about three hacker attacks per day, which frankly, surprised me very much. Maybe no damage would have been done by any of these attacks had I not installed the firewall, but his level of activity has raised my level of paranoia by a few notches.

The software logs the unsolicited activity, and collects evidence files should things ever proceed to that level of involvement. It also can be set up to block repeated unfriendly visitors. Black Ice Defender can be set to any one of four levels of security. The lowest level is

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I would like to congratulate Samantha once more for having reached the top of the third highest mountain in North America at the age of 14. Not bad! Ask her what she got from the mountain after she threw a coin into the crater.

I have taken the liberty to correct some critical spelling on this letter, but otherwise left it alone, as Paul has written his impressions superbly. Enjoy! — Dr. John Benitez XE1/KE3XB

Hello Everyone,

I just got back from Mexico and am working my way through a bad case of Mr M's revenge. Luckily it waited to hit till I got back.

In case you didn't know I was there for what I was in Mexico for. It was a climbing trip. I used to work in a climbing shop now I am guiding for them. I went as the junior most guide. Mike and Roberto were the seniors. Roberto being a native of Mexico and having summited both peaks umpteen million times. He is currently working on his UIAA certification. Which is a very being deal, it is like getting a doctorate in guiding. Mike is a NOLS graduate and a very competent outdoors person. He runs all of the hikes for MDI and had been on this trip and to Kilimanjaro before with Roberto. Plus he is a fantastic cook.



AA3JS photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2000 Dr. John Benitez

So Mike, Bob, John, Tim, Samantha, Richard, Frank, and Myself left Pittsburgh on the 26th of February. We picked up Jay and Roberto at the airport in Mexico. Right away we started drinking water. It was the theme for the trip. Drink! Drink! Drink!

Mexico City is at almost 8000 feet above sea level pretty high for all of us. After getting groceries we drove off to Amecameca, where we stayed in some interesting cabanas. Yours truly slept on the couch for a few nights quiet comfortably.

On our second day there we drove up to Paso de Cortez at about 11,000 feet and did some walking around and a little how to walk at altitude and carry an axe. We also worked on walking through anchors which ended up like a Three Stooges skit. After awhile even us guides where getting screwed up trying to show people how to do it and it is so simple. But we made it through. Then back down to the city.

Next we went up to the radio tower which is at 12,000 feet and stayed there for a few days getting ready to up Ixty (17,600). We did some training in how to walk in rope teams and a little day hike to get used to what the air feels like or what the lack of air feels like.

Summit Day on Ixty we lost almost everyone at 14,000 feet the fourth col. Some were doing better than others but everyone gave it a good go till that point. Then it was down to Roberto, Jay, John, Tim, and myself. What a pain in the #\$\$@* to get through some of the spots. The Mountain is a chaos pile. One step up half a step back. At 16,500 about an hour from the summit Jay had had enough so even though I felt

great it was my job to stay back with him. It was a bit of a bummer I'll admit, but I was an employee not a client so not a big deal. He got worse while we stayed there, so I took him down as far as we could go and waited for the others. He drank the rest of my water, too.

Roberto and John and Tim made the summit yippeeee. Tim and John were pretty wasted but very stoked.

On the way down John and Jay stayed with Roberto and Tim and I boogied down. Tim was beat and a couple of times his camel back hose had to be put in his mouth for him to drink. Tim seemed to have enjoyed the climb tremendously. After 16 and half hours it was back to the cabanas and a much needed shower. Mike graciously let me sleep in his room and he took the couch. Thanks Mike.

Then on to Puebla a neat touristy town with 365 churches. We recouped and everyone except Jay, John, Tim, and me went and did a 14,600 foot peak called La Malinche. Spelling unsure of. Everyone made it. I was back at the Hotel de Portal being sick. The day before I had wandered around and tried my hand at street vendor food and drank soda from a bag. Good tasting bad on the GI tract. I also got to limbo with the scantily clad Vita-C girls.

After Puebla we drove to Tlachichuca and stayed at Sr. Reyes' in an old factory converted to a bunk house. Nice place. We drove from there to 12,000 feet and camped, then up to 14,000 feet and made base camp for Pico de Orizaba. What a beautiful peak, A glacier at last. We stayed there for a few nights and made a hike up to 15,000 feet.

Summit day played out little unexpectedly. Tim was out way before the glacier. His achilles tendon got all screwed up and he was pissed. After that Roberto, Sam, Bob, John, Jay and I got all the way to 17,300 before Bob got sick. Bob sure put up on hell of a good fight to get that high and I admire his tenacity. But Down we went. At 16,000 Bob thought he saw a bulldozer at 15,000. My comment to Bob: "Hey lets go down". Everyone else made it to the crater rim.

All in all it was a pretty successful trip. I think some people found things out about themselves that they would have rather not known but that is what a big portion of climbing is about. I think also that I was able to make stronger connections with people that are my friends.

To all of you that came on this climb THANK YOU. To those that read this misspelled and mis-punctuated, thanks also. And to everyone, good climbing.

— Paul Bowman XE1/KB3DKO

(This story in truly fiction any representation to living or dead people is truly coincidental.)

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Trustworthy. The default is Cautious, which is where I'm set at. One step higher is Nervous, and the highest security level is Paranoid. If this activity keeps up, I may just have to move up a level or two. Mr. York is a PE and Project Manager for the local office of an international Engineering firm

The Hollow State: The Mystery of the Homebrew RF Deck

Don Merz N3RHT

As anyone who has visited my shack knows, I have a modest collection of old boatanchors that includes a fair percentage of homebrew. When I started collecting, I originally scoffed at homebrew rigs as though they were mutants. But I have come to appreciate the sense of personal history which each homebrew piece brings to the shack. In fact, the more you know about who built the rig and under what circumstances, the more interesting it becomes.

The latest thing I picked up (read: paid too much for) at WASHfest is not very interesting because I know nothing of its origin. The old-fashioned, heavy steel chassis has no marks on it of any kind. And the guy I bought it from was another hamfest junkie who knew nothing about it either.



The rig is late-30's, early-40's RF deck with push-pull 812's driven by an 812. It has classic caps-mounted-on-porcelain-insulators type construction and a great E.F. Johnson flat-wound plug-in coil in the final. Alligator clips make connections to the coils of course. And the overall parts count is low. Four 1/4" phone jacks are on the front--for metering, I suppose.

Soooo...if anyone is aware of any published circuits that featured Push-Pull 812's driven by an 812, then I would appreciate hearing from you at merz.ds@mellon.com.

I have found a couple circuits that come vaguely close:

- 1) a 250 watt rig in the 1940 Thordarson guide (I think the number is 344-D or E),
- 2) QST 12/39 has no less than 3 PP 812 circuits including the ad on the back cover, and
- 3) the 1941 RCA Guide To Transmitting Tubes shows a PP 812 circuit where the driver is an 807 (I think this is identical to one of the 12/39 QST articles).

But none of these use the 812 driver. Any help would be appreciated locating the right reference on this RF deck.

Finally, if you have any homebrew in your shack, get up "right this instant" (like your Mom used to say) and label the thing with

- 1) the source of the circuit,
- 2) call of the builder, and
- 3) your call.

Use model paint on a tiny brush in some inconspicuous corner of the rig. Great old homebrew often gets broken down for parts or discarded simply for want of a magazine reference. Don't let this happen to yours.

One homebrew amplifier that was "left for dead" in the remains of a local ham's estate had just one cryptic note painted in small white letters on the side skirt of the chassis. The note read "Jan 60." And sure enough, when you look in QST for January 1960, there you will find this amp — proudly known as the Tabletop Half-Kilowatt.

In another, not-so-happy case, I bought a 6-and-2 meter transmitter--a 1950's design, for less than \$5 at the Butler

hamfest. It looked like hell outside but looked professionally built inside. Also inside were no less than 10 black and white photographs of the rig in various stages of construction, with the builder or other family members often evident in the photos. There were also several hand drawn circuit diagram fragments and a sheet of notes on the rig. But NOWHERE TO BE FOUND was the builder's call or any reference to the source of the circuit. That rig was a labor of love for someone but we will never know who.

Don't let that happen to your Homebrew gear. And don't count on the documentation you have staying with the rig. We all know that story. The docs are in the same place as all the original knobs and unmatched socks.

Don, who became a member of WASH at WASHfest this year, has been a regular at our hamfest for years. "My interest is primarily in ham radio history, tube-type gear, mechanical RTTY and tube-type homebrew gear. I am on the BOATANCHORS mailing list and I originally wrote this item as an e-mail for that list." Don will be writing regularly on boat-anchors and other classic radios.

Classic Marconi radio photo courtesy of the Hallicrafters Collector's Association website ©2000 HCA

Got homebrew
in your shack?

Don't let it
become a
mystery radio
or a hamfest
casualty!

Are You a Professional? Take This Quiz!

Courtesy of Jacque Gosselin N3ZEL

Are you a professional? This short quiz will help you understand your thinking style better. The questions aren't difficult & the answers are included.

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe & close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator ?

Wrong Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant & close the door. Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant & close the door.

This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your actions.

3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct Answer : The Elephant. The Elephant is in the refrigerator. This tests your memory.

OK, even if you did not answer the first three questions, correctly you can surely answer this one.

4. There is a river you must cross. But it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage to cross it?

Correct Answer: You swim across. All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Meeting!

This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

According to Andersen Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all questions wrong. But many preschoolers got several correct answers. This conclusively disproves the theory that most professionals have the brains of a four-year old.

A Contest Multi/Multi Story Rich Strand KL7RA

Contesting in the Multi-Multi category can be really fun. This is a (not so short) report of the KL7RA M/M operation in the ARRL DX SSB Contest (the first weekend of March 2000) for any one interested in starting or operating from this category.

The plan: I noticed years ago that at the closing bell all the positions had evolved into QSO running machines. Everything was fixed by this time and the ops were just having fun running without messing with their headsets, radio or program features. Rate was king. I had this great idea to run the ARRL phone M/M and then "freeze" everything in place for the "big" one (for us) WPX. I didn't have enough people interested in this contest for a full blown M/M, but enough interested to come out for a few hours or few days to practice rate and a few needed to learn the logging software.

The start: Everything was ready with 10 and 15 open to the USA. I watched the clock on the 40 meter position click over to zero and we were off and running. The 15 meter op had a rough start with a large pile of callers, but the plan was the plan and I resisted "taking over". He finally got into the zone and did fine after awhile.

The first Failure: I was sitting at the 40 position ignoring 15 meters cries for help as best I could when the monitor went dead. Easy fix. However it wasn't the monitor but the PC. This was a battle hardened machine, used for years, but the power supply decided it was done with this contest after 15+ minutes. I raced to the house to grab a spare and was back on line after loading all the necessary files etc.

When it rains it pours: The 40 PC off-line dropped the network and the ten meter PC crashed. Not good as this was a serious rate band at 280+. I looped around the 40 PC to recover, but the 10 meter PC continued to crash. I wanted to find the reason for this crash, and with the help of Wigi, the ten meter op, we ended up with a box with only AC and keyboard attached, an older version of the software, no database. This PC would only run about 10 minutes at a time before the keyboard would freeze. After a test for RF, I gave up and replaced the box with another spare, but by this time the band was heading West. Glad this wasn't the WPX.

Still raining: By this time 20 meters started to open with a good rate and the big guns from the East Coast were getting loud on 40. If I hurried I might even get four transmitters on at once for a few minutes as 10 and 15 were dropping fast. I no sooner found a frequency on 40 when the 20 meter PC crashed. This machine was running the same exact "stuff" as 15 which didn't miss a beat. I was out of working spares, so I grabbed an old 486-50 from the garage and rebuilt it on the station floor (no desk space left) while the 20 meter op continued to reboot after every 20 Q's or so. This isn't as bad as it seems as you can spend that time asking Europe not to call. With this replacement done I finally was ready to have fun myself on 40.

Passing a kidney stone: Our slice of 40 is only 25 KHz wide and it was packed. I have been contesting for 36 years and can't afford to lose too many more friends, so I looked for someone I didn't know. I found a station in the Crib that needed help so I fired away. He fired back and I was on the floor, headset and all, in



The KL7RA operators:
Front Row:
KL7XD, KL7RA,
& NL7Y
Back Row:
AL7IF, N1TX

Photo courtesy
of & ©2000
Rich Strand

intense pain. Later diagnosed as "passing" a kidney stone", whatever that is. I got up and tried to get to my home, a short walk from the station, but didn't make it. One of the ops went out to check on me a few days later (few minutes, but why ruin a good story?) and found me face down in the snow. Gary got me up and said I need to handle stress a little better. I convinced him I was shot in the back by a stray bullet or something. He had been through this and said the pain would switch off after I passed the stone. I kept walking up and down my drive way, drinking orange juice when I could and throwing up most of it up along the way. On the return trip my wife would try to get me to go to the hospital as I grabbed another orange juice.

Switch off: The hour went by and the worst pain in my life switched off as quickly as it had started. I told the contest gods I was just kidding about never stealing frequencies again and jumped into the 40 meter battle. One of the ops asked if I was okay and I said "yes, why do you ask?" He said "because you don't have any lips!" I guess you can say I was ashen white.

Propagation: Our stateside propagation can be good or bad this far North, but the Europeans were loud all night on every band. They were as loud on ten as I have ever heard them. It's rare to hear Europe on 75 meters from Fairbanks and they were loud there as well. We had spent the day asking them not to call and I had to tune through "loud" Europe stations on 75 to find weak US signals. No justice in this world. I had spent the last few weeks in Germany and was a guest of the Bavarian Contest Club. I cringed every time a German station would call in to say "hello" and the ops would run them off.

Night shift: I didn't plan on a night crew for this contest, but as the conditions were very good the first night I got some volunteers for the next. Larry, N1TX, operated 20 (a grueling band at times) and the band stayed open to the states all night. I watched Ed fall asleep and his head slowly fall towards the keyboard. When he hit the board it launched a CQ. He jumped awake and asked the intruder to QSY as he had been on the frequency for an hour (a lie). He looked around and said "Boy I'm tired, I just got in a frequency fight with my own voice keyer!"

The end: Sunrise finally came shutting down the low bands. 10 was late to open but produced good numbers the last few hours. 20 went very quite the last 8 hours and 15's propagation was mostly Europe.

I looked over the station this morning and it's a mess. But a plan is a plan and I will leave it as is. If I could get this past weekend's great Europe propagation for the WPX we will be all set.

(Continued from page 1)

away and use them for paging, wireless networks, taxis, & anything else you can think of.

More active amateurs also means that there's more incentive for the commercial equipment manufacturers to design new products, because there'll be a market for them.

So you're concerned about how these new guys will do on the air? Don't sit back and wait for them to screw up. Lead by example. Show them. Teach them. Befriend them. If someone once lent you a hand in buying equipment, building a shack, erecting an antenna, explaining how a traffic net or contest works, etc... now is the time to repay that favor by doing the same thing for the new/retread hams popping up.

Will the CW bands be affected? Probably. The sad reality is that the Novice sub-bands have been slowly dying off for years as the pool of new Novices has dried up. So I wouldn't be surprised if some changes are made to those bands in a few years. On the other hand, you're going to see more people on CW operating there because they want to, not because they have to, and you might just be surprised at what a difference that subtle little change can make. In addition, more HF amateurs means more use of RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, PSK-31 and other digital modes to communicate — which means we might just need every bit of the existing CW/digital only spectrum. Won't it be fun to find out which will happen?

Restructuring is taking place at or just before the peak of the current sun spot cycle. It may not be the best cycle known, but the bands are open as they haven't been in the last nine or ten years! What better time to introduce someone to Amateur Radio, especially when we can use the new requirements to our advantage? This is, again, a golden opportunity to market Amateur Radio as never before, possibly never again, and all of us need to take full advantage of it.

Yes, things have changed. It happens. Yes, the tests are easier, and the code speed has dropped. So what? This isn't a hazing requirement to join a college fraternity. The tests are meant to and designed to demonstrate the knowledge needed to safely and legally operate a station with the desired privileges in the Amateur Service today. Not everyone who wants a license will qualify, because not everyone will put forth the effort required. But arbitrarily excluding someone because the testing hasn't kept up to date... even if the tests you and I passed were allegedly much harder than the ones being given today... is wrong, and more importantly, counter-productive to the long-term survival Amateur Service as we know it.

Now is the time to set aside the griping and start taking advantage of this golden opportunity. Restructuring can — and should — be the best thing to happen to Amateur Radio in 50 years. That won't happen by itself. It will only happen if we — all of us! — put forth some effort. A little positive effort now, and the results will be unbelievable.

And let's all consign negative phrases like "No Kids, No Lids, No Space Cadets" back to the dustbin of history where they belong.

— Ron Notarius WN3VAW, President
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. N3SH/WA3SH

The Kermadec DX Association has a small quantity of "special envelopes of philatelic interest" left over from the ZL9CI Dxpedition. The cost is US\$15 (plus US\$1 return postage) while supplies last, to: Kermadec DX Association (ZL9CI Env.), PO Box 56099, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand — ZL2HU

DX News Briefs

Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League will reactivate **BQ9P** Tung-Sha Dao (Pratas) April 5th – 12th with up to 7 stations on the air. QSL via KU9C — BV4AS via OPDX



VKØMM has posted new operating rules on his web site. You are now permitted 2 different QSO's maximum with **VKØMM**, **VKØLD** and/or **AXØLD**, and this is backdated. "Stations attempting more contacts will be completely removed from the log, no exceptions." No word on what happens to stations that have already made more than 2 QSO's prior to the rule change. In addition, because of some interference with the 18 MHz ionospheric experiments, **VKØMM**'s operating schedule and frequencies may be limited temporarily — **VKØMM** (thanks to W3UR/The Daily DX for the tip)

Winter & Spring DX Contests bring out the requests for QSL routes:

3W5OK via OK DX Foundation — K14RU
4W6DX & **4W/W3UR** via OH2BN — W3UR, OPDX
4W6UN via VK3OT, **4W6MM** via TF1MM — VK3OT via RAØFF
8J1RL via JA9BOH — IK1GPG & I1HYW
FK8HC via VK4FW — FK8HC
HFØPOL via SP3WVL — IK1GPG & I1HYW
HU1A via YU7DR — K14RU
HU1A via YT1AD (ARRL DX Test Only) — NØJT
KC4AAA via K1IED — IK1GPG & I1HYW
KG4VL via N5VL — N5VL
LZØA via LZ1KPD — IK1GPG & I1HYW
OA4SS via KB6J — K14RU
OG8L & **OH8L** via OH8LQ — OH1BOI
PW2A via PT2BW — PT2BW
V47X via WT9U — LZ1PJ
V7G & **V73CW** via AC4G — W6ROY, AC4G
V8APP, **V8500**, & **9M600** all via N200 — N200
VKØERZ via VK2FUN — IK1GPG & I1HYW
VP6BR via OH2BR — K14RU (That's Pitcairn Island's new Prefix!)
XU7AAV via G4ZVJ — K4KKL
ZX5J via VE3HO (From 1999 CQ WW & after) — PP5JN

4S7TZ is being Pirated on CW. Trevor operates ONLY on SSB. He has received many cards for a CW contact and is returning all CW cards received so far. — 4S7DA

Who owns **KP1 Navassa Island**? Check out www.altlaw.com/metro/Court.doc for a look into the legal entanglements — W4GBU

The International Telecommunications Union has assigned to the United Nations the prefix block **4WA-4WZ** for use by radio stations within the area administered by the United Nations Temporary Administration of **East Timor** (UNTAET). This prefix assignment is for the use of UNTAET as long as it exists, and is scheduled to be returned to the ITU after the UNTAET ceases to exist. UN stations within East Timor may be assigned 4U prefixes for official use, while UN Amateur stations may use the prefix 4U1. This includes the UN Amateur Radio Club station, 4U1ET. For DXCC purposes, UN Temporary Administration of East Timor will be added to the DXCC List with the effective date of March 1, 2000. QSL cards for QSO's made after that date will be accepted on and after October 1, 2000. 4W was assigned to North Yemen until it ceased to exist in 1990. — Bill Moore NC1L, ARRL DXCC Desk

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

Bob Ferrey Jr. N3DOK,
WPA Public Information Officer
(412) 367-2393 or n3dok@pgh.net

UPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon May 7th: Well it won't be long before the snow melts and the cold temperatures give way to the spring thaw. Unlike the Y2K forecast of glum and doom, the one preparation you need to think about for spring is whether you will be joining us again for the Y2K UPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon.

This year, the Marathon will host the Men's Olympic Trials. The top runners from across the U.S. will be coming to Pittsburgh to compete for the privilege of representing the United States in the upcoming Summer Olympics, which will be held in Sydney, Australia. Here's your chance to have the best seat in the house to cheer on the runners.

The marathon and medical officials have again requested amateur radio's participation in this great event. As in the past, we will be providing vital and necessary communication to ensure the safety and well being of all the runners and spectators. More than 150 amateur radio volunteers will be needed to support this effort. This is an opportunity for you and amateur radio to provide a public service to our community, as well as being part of this prestigious event.

The marathon will take place on Sunday, May 7, 2000. Contact Konrad W3KK to volunteer, or fill out an application on-line found at <http://www.cs.pitt.edu/~hoffman/marathon.html> — W3KK, K3FH

MS Walk April 9th: Amateur Radio Operators are also needed for the MS Walk on April 9th, starting 7:30 AM, through early afternoon depending upon assigned location. For more information or to sign up, contact Mike Tobias N3NSG at 412-351-2363 (day) or 412-422-8803 (evenings & weekends), or email miket@dipcraft.com.

To sign up for these events, or to find out more information about these and other Public Service events, check into the Allegheny County Public Service Net every Wednesday evening, 9 PM ET, on the North Hills ARC Repeater, W3EXW/R 147.09 MHz. — N3NSG

New Atlantic Division Reflector for Affiliated Club

Officers: A new reflector has been created for officers of ARRL affiliated amateur radio clubs in the Atlantic Division. The reflector is for the purpose of club officers sharing information and ideas about a variety of topics pertaining to amateur radio clubs. In order to subscribe, you will need to send a message to: atlclubs@bfdin.com. Put the subject header as: SUBSCRIBE. In the body of the message please list the following information: (1) Your name and call; (2) Your club's name; (3) Your position with the club. Once you have received emailed confirmation that your subscription request was approved, you can post messages to the reflector by sending them to: atlclubs@bfdin.com or by replying to those message you have received from the reflector. — N3EFN & N3LLR

Silent Keys



Sherman Carr W9NGT, the Father of Skywarn, March 15th

FCC News

ARRLWeb Extra courtesy American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 23, 2000--The FCC has rescinded its March 16 Public Notice that announced implementation of the FCC's agency-wide Commission Registration System (CORES) and the issuance of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to each licensee. The new system, which would supplant Universal Licensing System registration for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau-administered licensees, was to have gone into effect on Monday, March 27.



This week, the FCC said it was delaying implementation of CORES and FRNs and suspending the March 27 effective date "until further notice." The FCC said it plans to soon issue a new Public Notice "clarifying certain issues about the new program and providing a new effective date for implementation."

CORES registration was expected to replace ULS registration within a year and possibly as early as six months from now. Apparently it will not replace the Universal Licensing System altogether, however. Information provided to the ARRL by FCC officials indicates that a new CORES registration form will replace the ULS Registration Form 606 when the new system goes on-line. Once in place, CORES will assign a new 10-digit FCC Registration Number, or FRN, which will replace the Licensee ID Numbers now issued by ULS for WTB licensees.

The ULS--which covers only Wireless Telecommunications Bureau licensees and applicants--became effective for the Amateur Service last August, and the FCC still has not removed all the wrinkles from the system. Most hams have yet to register in ULS.

122. Amateur First Grade. — The applicant must have a sufficient knowledge of the adjustment and operation of the apparatus which he wishes to operate and of the regulations of the International Convention and acts of Congress in so far as they relate to interference with other radio communication and impose certain duties on all grades of operators.

The applicant must be able to transmit and receive in Continental Morse at a speed sufficient to enable him to recognize distress calls or the official "keep-out" signals. A speed of at least five words per minute (five letters to the word) must be attained

— Excerpted From the Radio Laws of the United States, US Department of Commerce, 1912 (thanks to KH7M & N3DOK)



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!

2000 Annual Meeting, WPA DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society Larson E. Rapp III K3IOU *

It was a dark and stormy night. Lightning cracked overhead, and we could feel the thunder as we stepped around a burgundy Dodge on our way into Paul Long Hall for the annual meeting of the Western PA chapter of the DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society. Having vanquished our arch foes in the Crafton Radio Amateur Poetry Society and the Bridgeville Amateur Radio Foundation (although the police were still interested, based on the doughnut-encrusted snores coming from the aforementioned unmarked Dodge), we took our seats with anxious trepidation of the night ahead.

Dodging a flying Rettysnitch, the chairman *du jour* rapped the meeting to order. The minutes (and the secretary) were readily disposed of, and our special guest of the night made his appearance, Mr. Charles "CQ" Conntehess. Before the introductions could be completed, "CQ Contest" burst onto the podium and shoved the chairman down into the throngs.

Standing on top of the chairman's now apparently lifeless body, Russ W4UBC was the first from the floor:

*There was a Big Gun DXer named Brad
Who could bust any pile-up we had
When the FCC paid him a visit,
He answered the door saying "what is it?"
Now Brad with his pink slip is sad.*

With a last gasp, the chairman pulled a Wouff Hong out of his side pocket and made certain Russ would join him on his upcoming journey.

Oblivious as ever to the mayhem around him, "CQ" proclaimed that to win a contest, you needed more power, extolling the virtues of a West Coast Kilowatt linear amplifier ("California kW" is no longer PC)

Ducking a flying 1625, Zack W9SZ was the next to shout out:

*A young QRPer from Maine
Thought QRO totally insane
Till that one fateful day
He missed out on Bouvet
Now he sports 60 dB of gain*

Sadly, as he ducked the 1625, a BC-458 shattered at Zack's side, peppering him with dynamotor pieces.

"CQ" continued to fuel the fire, er, exhort to the crowd that since no one owned a frequency, if someone paused to take a sip or even catch their breath for a few seconds, the frequency should be considered open for the contest op to grab for their own run — and fire up that kW!

Mike W6RW grabbed the floor mike and started,

There once was a ham from Nantucket

(Suddenly the room quieted — you could even hear an arterial bleed flowing. Everyone wondered, "was this the legendary...?")

Mike hesitated, cleared his throat, and continued:)

*Whose antenna's so tall lightning struck it
He said with a grin
As there came a big wind
If it blows down today I'll just chuck it!*

A disappointed scream of "no! that's not it!" was heard just before a Johnson Desktop Kilowatt appeared 10 feet above Mike... with no visible means of support...

"CQ" was now telling the crowd that contest rules about sportsmanship, fair play, and the Amateur's Code were just put there to keep the old timers happy, and since nobody paid any attention to them anymore, they should be ignored — just like he did.

Harold K4HB was the next brave soul:

*There was once a list lizard named Ray,
Who bellowed his "lass too" each day.
Though condemned by the rest,
His Q-SO's were blessed,
by a Net Control Station Named Jay*

A couple of cold 807's from the bar cut Harold down where he stood (and you wondered why it was called Iron City Beer?).

"CQ" showed off his calendar, showing a contest on every weekend and most weekdays, and informed everyone that contesting and testers had rights to the bands above and beyond everyone else, and if they didn't like it, tough.

Steve W3EEE, holding another of those 807's, took a step from the bar into his moment of infamy:

*For those fond of a DXing net
Where two letters are all that you get
The word's on the street
FCC's on its feet
A third letter from Riley you'll get, I bet.*

Steve ducked as a silver-plated Rettysnitch passed right over his head and impaled Duane W8DBF, who never saw it coming.

"CQ" was now telling a tall tale about the time he and some buddies tried to pin the coax at K3LR... while it was running full tilt... which is why he no longer needs to perm his hair.

A weak voice spoke forth, as Zack W9SZ proved he didn't know when to stay down...

*The Legion of Handwringers cried
"New DXers they just have no pride
They call and they call
without listening at all
then wonder why they even tried"*

With that, and as a misdirected mailbag full of FOØAAA QSL cards landed on his back, Zack and his time expired.

"CQ" was now proclaiming that every aspect of contest operating was competitive, and anything goes, as winning it all was the only thing, and losing was for whiners and wimps.

John NT5C jumped up and wrestled the mike from "CQ"

*There was once a tester Dan,
An aggressive, competitive man,
But he stepped on John Dorr,
And ain't calling no more,
'Cause his tongue got chewed up in the fan.*

"Hey! Give me back that mike! Don't you know who I am!" screamed "CQ." As he stomped John back into the throng, the Activities Committee brought forth "CQ's" award as the Guest of Honor: A Pittsburgh Kilowatt. As "CQ" admired his prize, he was guided to the metallic operator's chair. He asked if it was salvaged from the legendary KDKA 500 kW transmitter site. "No," we told him with glee, "the old J&L South Side Works!" A switch was thrown, and 25,000 kW formerly used to arc-weld raw steel sent "CQ" off to contesting hereafter. And as the transformers outside of Paul Long Hall popped like popcorn and sparked like fireworks, the WPA DXH&PDS survivors slipped off into the dark city for another year of merriment and mayhem. (*apologies to W9BRD & in fond remembrance of his legendary DXH&PDS tales)



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**

<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (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



WPA Area April Hamfests

**28th Annual Two Rivers
ARC Hamfest & Computer
Show**

Sunday April 9th

The Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club of
McKeesport Pa is pleased to announce
its 28th Annual Hamfest and Computer

Show on Sunday, April 9th, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Al Monzo's Palace Inn, located at the corner of Business US 22 & PA Route 48 interchange, Monroeville, PA. [Three blocks from the US 22/I 376/I 76 (PA Turnpike Pittsburgh exit) interchange]

- 1st Prize: Kenwood TM-V7A Dual Band Mobile Transceiver
- 2nd Prize: ICOM IC T8A Tri Band Hand Held Transceiver
- 3rd Prize: ICOM IC T8A Tri Band Hand Held Transceiver
- Main Prize Winners Need Not Be Present To Win.

Admission Tickets: \$5 (under 12 free when accompanied by a paid adult admission) Talk-In from W3OC on 146.73 Repeater & 146.52 Simplex email: w3oc @ nb.net web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w3oc/hamfest.htm>

Table reservations are available. Tables are \$20 apiece, \$10 additional for electricity. Please contact the planning committee by any of these means: USPS mail: TRARC Hamfest, PO Box 225, Greenock PA 15047

Phone : (412) 664-1683

Fax: (412) 751-9657

**WACOM Spring Hamfest
Sunday April 30th**



The annual WACOM Spring Hamfest will be held on Sunday, April 30th at the Washington County Fair Grounds, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Doors open at 6:00 AM for vendor and table setup. General Admission: \$3. Tables: \$8. Tailgating \$5

VE Testing available, starting at 10:00 AM.
Talk-in on the W3CYO repeaters, 145.490 and 443.300 MHz.

Directions: From I-79, take the Meadowlands Exit (North of I-70), right turn to the traffic light, turn left to next light, turn right to Stop sign. Turn right, past the Washington County Health Center to the first entrance to Washington County Fair Grounds. Hamfest is located in the 4H Building 1/4 mile up the hill. From I-70, take I-79 North towards Pittsburgh to the Meadowlands Exit. From PA18, turn at the light near Route 18 Mobile Home Sales, go to the stop sign and make a left to the Fair Grounds.

For more information and advance table reservations, please contact Jim Burtoft KC3HW, Hamfest Chairman, (724) 228-0546, 1696 East Maiden Street, Washington PA 15301 or email Dave DeMotte N3IDH, N3IDH@bellatlantic.net

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



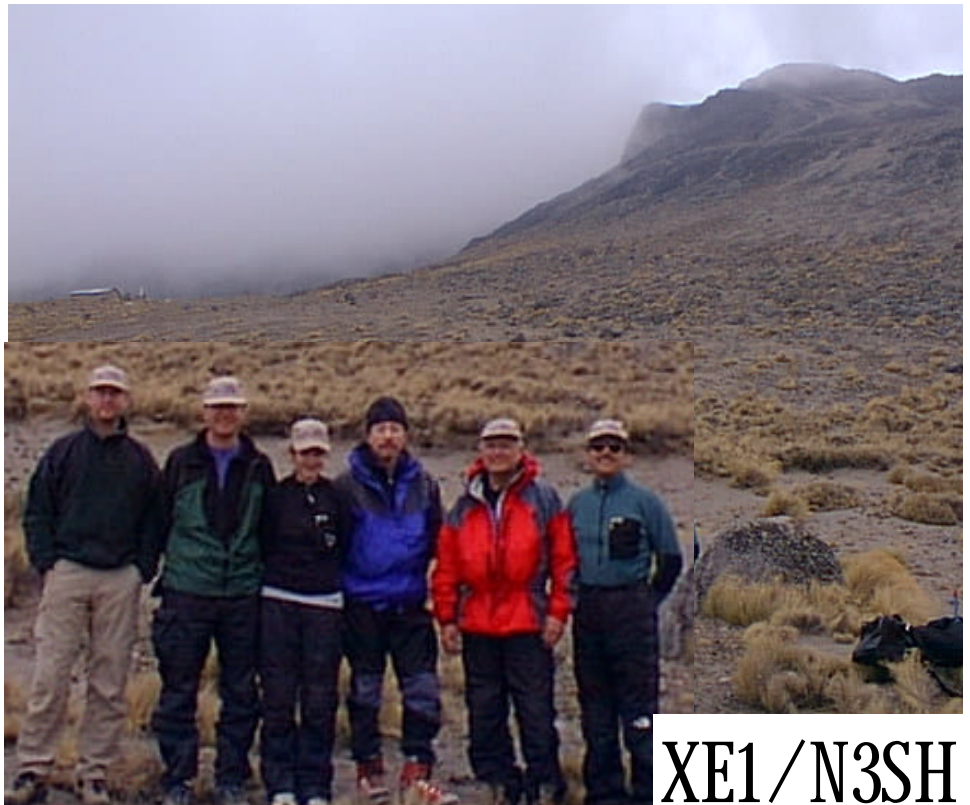
WASH Field Day,
June 24th & 25th
It will be here
before you know it!



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

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- Like these pictures? Read the story!
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 - Whatever happens to homebrew gear?
 - A KL7's view of a multi-multi contest op.
 - Upcoming ARES Events & VE test Sessions
- And that's just the beginning ... naturally!



XE1/N3SH

Hams on Pico de Orizaba, base camp ~14,000 ft
Shown: Paul KB3DKO, Bob AA3FI, Samantha AA3JS, Frank N3XI, Dick N3QMV, John KE3XB (ex-XE1/N3UOK).
Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2000 Dr. John Benitez KE3XB