



# WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 4 Issue 5

May 2002

N3SH  
WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

## N3SH Field Day 2002 Plans Coming Along!

**New Location for 2002:** WASH Field Day 2002 will be held at the **Library Sportsmens Association** grounds, south of Library on Route 88. Many thanks to Hank KB3FNM for facilitating the move to this great site. There will be a map in the June **WASHRag**.

The Antenna Committee (with a lot of help) did some preliminary work at the site in mid April (see below).

**Please let us know if you can help prepare for Field Day 2002, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

We request that you join one or more of the operating committees! If your call appears below with "asking," that means that you're being asked to help form that committee. However, **all** committees can use help. Don't be shy. Get involved!

The established Field Day committees (in alphabetical order) are:

1. **Antennas** - K3VX, W3WH (asking W3JAF)
2. **Batteries** (asking N3BSQ & W3RJM)
3. **Computer logging** - K3VX, WN3VAW & NØPEU
4. **Digital** (PSK, RTTY, etc) - (asking W3RJM)
5. **Food** - KB3GMN
6. **"Get On The Air!" Station** - (asking for volunteers)
7. **Lighting, Power & Tables** - N3ZNI
8. **Points Committee** - N3ZEL & N3ZNI
9. **Publicity** - N3KFD (asking KB3FZU)
10. **Rigs & Associated Equipment** - W4ZE & N3SBF
11. **Satellite** - N3HKQ
12. **Technical Solutions & Equipment Repair** - (asking N3RNX & KB3FZU)



73, Larry Comden K3VX & Bill Hill W3WH  
WASH Field Day  
Co-Chairmen



**"Forward Ho!"** Checking out the Field Day Site for antenna placement (Left to Right): Hank KB3FNM, Ed N3ZNI, Bob W3RWS, Larry K3VX. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2002 Jacque Gosselin N3ZEL

### Next Meeting: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, starting at 7:00 PM.

Our guest speaker will be ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE, talking on Amateur Radio & Homeland Security.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

## What Does The Amateur "Extra Class" Mean?

Bill Cross W3TN

*(During a recent discussion on the Ten Tec Reflector of a "One Day Extra" class sponsored by another Amateur Radio Club, the following was sent to Jim Reid KH7M by the FCC's Bill Cross in response to a question. Mr. Reid in turn posted this excerpt of the reply to the reflector.*

*Disclaimer: The following statement represents Mr. Cross's personal views and is not necessarily the official position or policy of the FCC, and it is used with his permission — Editor)*

Yes, what does the Extra Class license mean anymore??

It means what it always meant, no more and no less: it means you showed up at an exam point and passed the necessary exam elements to show the VEs (prior to 1984 it was the FCC Engineer-in-charge) that you were qualified for an Amateur Extra Class license.

The Amateur Extra Class operator license is an amateur radio license — not a professional engineering license — and there never has been a need, requirement, or a reason for a person to take "an entire semester in engineering school to learn how to solve all those impedance, complex plane, R+/- jX problems" to be an amateur radio operator.

Personally, I'd prefer they take an entire semester before they get on the air and read their transmitter's operating manual.

Keep in mind, too, that the exam system and license structure we have today is the system the hams asked for — not one imposed by the government.

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WASH FM Net  
9:00 PM ET  
Sunday Nights  
on the  
146.955  
and 443.650  
Repeaters

LOOKING  
AHEAD:

- Breeze-shooters Hamfest, June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ARRL VHF Contest June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> — N3SH/3 Operating from NØVLR & NØWPV's QTH
- Field Day June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> — N3SH/3 Operating at Library Sportsmen Club QTH, Route 88 in Library

# May 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
UPPMC/City of Pittsburgh Marathon	National Weather Service Lightning Safety Awareness Week, April 28 <sup>th</sup> to May 4 <sup>th</sup>					W4CN Kentucky Derby Special Event Station
5 Warminster RC Hamfest Elwood City ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net NHARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	6 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	7 SHBP&M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting SATERN Net North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net GPVHFS Swap n' Shop Net	8 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtg Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	9 WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Triple 'A' ARA VE Test	10 2 Rivers ARC Ham 'n' Eggs Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast	11 Boy Scout Bike-a-Thon Tri-County CW VE Test Butler Co ARA VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
12 Mother's Day QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net NHARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	13 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Srvc Net	14 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center RC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&KC Meeting Punxsatawney Area RC Mtg SATERN Net North Hills ARC Net	15 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	16 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Meeting	Dayton Hamvention® 2002	
19 WASH FM Net Elk County ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net NHARC Teen Net	20 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	21 2 Rivers ARC RDF Event Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Mtg McKean Co ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting	22 North Hills ARC Activity Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	23 One Month to Field Day Weekend!	24 WASH Breakfast	25 CQ WPX CW Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
26 CQ WPX CW Test QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net NHARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	27 Memorial Day Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	28 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting SATERN Net North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net GPVHFS Swap n' Shop Net	29 Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	30 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting	31 Breezeshooter's Hamfest 6/2	6/1 RA Erie VE Test BVARA VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
						Atlantic Division Convention, Rochester NY

## WASH 2002 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Paul Lusardi NØVLR  
VP/Secretary Frank Bobro KB3FZU  
VP/Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

### AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL  
N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager Paul Lusardi NØVLR  
VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL  
Webmaster Bob Sanford AA3FI  
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI  
N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers  
FM Net (2 Meter & 70 cm) Kevin Smith N3HKQ  
Digital Net (10 Meter) (open)  
WASHFest 2003 Co-Chairman Steve Lane W3SRL  
(South Hills Hamfest) Bill Hill W3WH  
Activities & Operating Events Bill Hill W3WH  
Field Day 2002 Chairman Larry Comden K3VX  
Ways & Means Carol Danko KB3GMN  
Media Communications Kevin DeRose N3KFD  
Allegheny Co ARES Representative Ben Williams KB3ERQ

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon N3RNX/R 146.955 - PL 131.8  
Mt. Lebanon W3SRL/R 442.550 + PL 131.8  
I-Link #13181 (courtesy of N3UE)  
Canonsburg N3BV/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 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!  
The 10 METER DIGITAL N3SH/WA3SH WASHNET is on Hiatus until further notice. Please contact Paul NØVLR for more information.

## THE LEGAL STUFF

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius WN3VAW

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

e-mail: [wn3vaw@njdx.org](mailto:wn3vaw@njdx.org) or [wn3vaw@arrl.net](mailto:wn3vaw@arrl.net)

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The WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. was founded in 1993 as the original SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way shape or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3BV/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Ed Wolf N3UE for providing space on-line for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at [www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org) or <http://doit.pgh.net/~wolfie/washrag.htm>

## WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

### Next WASH VE Test July 18<sup>th</sup>!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002, 7:00 PM**, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: [n3zel@fyi.net](mailto:n3zel@fyi.net)

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 \$10.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003

### April 18<sup>th</sup> VE Test Results

We had ten candidates at our April 18<sup>th</sup> VEC test session, held at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church in Bethel Park, plus one person with a renewal form. Nine of the ten candidates successfully earned new or upgraded licenses!

As of deadline, the FCC ULS database on-line had not been updated. Regrettably, we are waiting for the FCC to publicly post the information before we can print it. This should be available in time for the June newsletter.



Thanks again to our Guest Speaker for April, Konrad Kammerrr W3KK (left), shown here answering questions about Amateur Radio involvement in the UPMC City of Pittsburgh Marathon.

If you get this before May 5<sup>th</sup>, it's still not too late to hook up and get involved! Contact Konrad at [w3kk@aol.com](mailto:w3kk@aol.com) or go to <http://www.cs.pitt.edu/~hoffman/marathon.html> to register.

### Future Meeting Guest Speakers (Subject to Change):

June 13<sup>th</sup>: Barry Kaplan KB3GKT  
Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix  
July 11<sup>th</sup>: Jeff Leach N3YEA, District  
Emergency Coordinator  
TBA: Tom Dandrea N3EQF, EQF Software

The **WASH Breakfast Gang** met as usual on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at **Dietz's Restaurant**. In attendance were N3ZNI, N3ZEL, W3WH, KB3GOT & his wife Jane, KB3CPI, W3VFA, KB3HNM, WN3VAW, and Jessie. They met again on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, with K3VX, N3SBF, KB3CPI, W3WH, W3RWS, NØPEU and WN3VAW gathering together. Topics ranged from license upgrades, Field Day, Internet Service Providers, Turkey Season and Antennas to most anything else we could think of! Come down and join us for coffee and discussion! The next Club Breakfast will be Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads. Come down and share a cup of coffee with us! Hope you can make it!

**Something seem a little different?** Several different fonts are used in putting the newsletter together. Most of the text had been using a font known as "Twentieth Century Medium Type 10." But many computer systems don't have that particular font, which caused problems for many who have been reading the newsletter electronically. So starting with this issue, "Tw Cen MT" is being phased out in favor of "Arial 8." Arial is a standard font that comes with almost all computer systems since Windows 3.1. And although the fonts are very close in size, switching to Arial will also be a little easier to read. If you run into any problems, let Ye Editor know before the next issue so that they can be addressed.

**Hawaii Five-O:** Ed N3ZNI finally worked Hawaii on 75 Meters early Sunday morning, April 21<sup>st</sup>, to complete his 80 M WAS (now he has to wait for all the cards to show!) Congratulations Ed! Also, congratulations to Bob W3RWS who has received his WAS Certificate from the ARRL.

**Venturing:** Congratulations to Atlantic Division Director and former WPA Section Manager Bernie Fuller N3EFN. Bernie was awarded the District Award of Merit from the French Creek Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was recognized for his work with the Venturing program of the Scouts (their program for young men and women ages 14 – 20) This is the highest award that a district can bestow upon a volunteer.

**June Contests are Busting Out All Over:** June's going to be a busy month for the club's contesting ranks. Not just Field Day (see the front page and below), but don't forget that two weeks earlier, N3SH will be active in the June VHF Contest from NØVLR & NØWPV's QTH. Operators are needed, no experience necessary! Contact NØVLR or W3WH for more details. Between the two contests, Breezeshooter's Hamfest, and Father's Day, June is going to be a very busy month for most of us!

**Speaking of Field Day,** you should be getting this newsletter with almost two months to go before the event. Now's the time to let the FD committee know when you plan to be there, what you'd like to operate, or what else you can do to help out — no strings attached and subject to change, of course. Remember that WASH FD is open not just to club members but other area amateurs (including the WPA Hilltoppers who are not doing FD on their own this year due to a wedding) so feel free to invite other amateurs to come down and join us in the fun! Remember, unless you're planning to operate QRP from Disney World or some other exotic point, we'd really love to have you come and join us for FD this year!

**Lucky Numbers:** Congratulations to Kevin Smith N3HKQ for winning First Prize, an ICOM IC-2100, at the WACOM Hamfest on April 28<sup>th</sup>!

**WASH 80 Meter Challenge:** Through the end of April, we've had these reports of DXCC Entities Worked on 75/80 Meters since October 1<sup>st</sup> in the Club Challenge: N3KFD is at 23, W4ZE is at 31 & WN3VAW is at 57. How'd you do? We're still waiting for other reports from club members. Since a lot of members have been more or less active but haven't been reporting their results, and considering the "last hurrah" of the Spring contest season is the CQ WPX CW on Memorial Day Weekend, we're going to extend the end of the Challenge to May 28<sup>th</sup>. Again, the idea is to see how many DXCC entities you can work on 75/80 meters by the deadline!

**Are you a "Real Ham"?** The ARRL Web site is currently featuring an article (dated April 29<sup>th</sup>) from Katy N1JDD on how, with the help of her local radio club, she finally got on HF with a working station and became a "Real Ham." The article (<http://www.arrrl.org/news/features/2002/04/29/2/?nc=1>) got us to thinking... are there members of WASH, or other licensed but inactive amateurs here in the South Hills that we may know, in a similar situation? If you are, or you know a ham who is, get a hold of one of the club officers and we'll see what we can do to help you (or them) get, or get back, on the air!

"Thanks to all the members of the WASH for sponsoring the Single Operator - QRO - WPA award in the 2001 PA QSO party. My portable operation from Crawford County won that category, and the plaque is now on the shack wall."  
— John Getz AD8J



# Minutes, April 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, Secretary, WASH

The Club President Paul, NØVLR **called the meeting to order** at 19:05 local time. There were 27 members and guests present.

**A moment of silence** was observed for recent silent keys and other deserving persons.

**Introductions** were then made all around, as is our custom.

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the March meeting as published in the newsletter by Ed, N3ZNI, seconded by Steve, W3SRL and was carried.

**Treasurer Report (N3RDV):** Mark was out with the flu so Paul, NØVLR gave a brief report. The hamfest was good! Paul says it was the most successful one we have ever had!

**Secretary Report (KB3FZU):** The WACOM Hamfest will be held on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Washington County Fairgrounds. The Breezeshooters Hamfest will be held on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Butler Farm Show Grounds. Also, that same Sunday the Manassas, Virginia Hamfest will be held at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Thanks to Ed, N3UE for donating the Breezeshooters tickets to the club. Frank, KB3FZU made an inquiry to the church to see if there was a bigger meeting room available. The current meeting room is the largest available on Thursday night. There is a larger room, but it is booked on Thursdays. Ed, N3UE donated 10 Breezeshooters tickets that we will raffle tonight on our 50/50 drawing. Ed, N3ZNI also donated 10 WACOM tickets that we will do likewise with. Thanks guys!

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** VE testing will be next Thursday at 7:00 PM, here at the church. Please let Jacque, N3ZEL know if you plan to attend. Walk-ins are welcome. There will also be a VE test session at 10 AM during the WACOM Hamfest.

**Repeater Report (W3SRL /N3RNK):** Steve, W3SRL – The repeaters are playing well. A tune-up is scheduled soon, during that time the UHF machine is scheduled to be checked.

Ed, N3UE - I-link - Ed rebuilt his equipment only to find the I-link system was having trouble. I-link lets you talk to other operators all over the world with a computer or a radio. Ed said this was all Steve's idea.

**FM Net Report (K3OL):** Bryan, K3OL is stepping down as the FM Net Manager. He has done a great job organizing the nets. Kevin, N3HKQ has volunteered to take over, and Ron, WN3VAW will help out. Thanks to Bryan for running the net the last few years.

**Activities Report (K3VX, W3WH):** A show of hands was taken for who will be going to Dayton. Steve, W3SRL has a room available at the University of Dayton, see him if you are interested.

**Contest Report (K3VX):** Ron, WN3VAW - The mugs for the PA QSO participants are here, see Ron to claim yours. The CQ Worldwide Prefix contest will be held at the end of May.

The **June ARRL VHF contest** is coming up. Paul and his wife have volunteered the use of their back yard on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>. The club will operate from 6 Meters through 70 cm.

**Field Day** will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. Hank, KB3FNM made arrangements to use the Library Sportsman Association. It is at 1250 – 1300' of elevation. There are restrooms, a kitchen and operating areas. There will be no charge to the club.

A motion to donate \$50.00 to the Library Sportsman Association was made by Bob, W3RJM and seconded by Ted, W4ZE.

We need to have a work party to ready the shelter. It will be held on an upcoming Saturday date to be determined later.

Larry explained the layout of the site. The shelter is 50 x 20'. There is enough length to install Bill's mystery length dipole. Should be able to get it 60' in the air. We would like to try using a loop antenna. The shelter is similar to the one the club has used in the past at the Mt. Lebanon Park. There are 6 - 6x6 posts and two telephone poles at the corners of the shelter. Larry said that it is all down hill from this site. Directions will be in the next newsletter. Frank, KB3FZU will inquire as to PCNC TV promotion availability. Bill would like to allocate a budget for materials, such as rope, ladder line, insulators etc.

Bill, W3WH motioned that \$250.00 be allocated for food and materials. Ron, WN3VAW seconded and the motion carried.

We will make a trip after the meeting to inquire about early access to the site. Carol, KB3GMN asked for input on food for field day.

**Newsletter Report (WN3VAW):** Ron reports that the newsletter is going well.

*(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 9)*

# WASH Spotlight: W3HND



Dave Imhoff W3HND is currently using this as his QSL card. Dave reports that he's doing very well on his return to HF with his indoor antennas. He's also active on 6 and 2 meters with his new TenTec Model 526 VHF rig.

**What is the WASH Spotlight?** Every month we're going to try and feature a different club member and/or something about them. It can be a QSL card, a shack picture, a candid hamfest or meeting photo, or almost anything else — not necessarily radio related. We want to recognize, all of the club members, not just the guys who stand up (or stand out) at meetings.

If you have an item for the Spotlight, whether it's about you or about another club member, contact WN3VAW for more information.

## Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>



Please join us for the next WASH Breakfast! We get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, and just have a good time together! Join us at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Baptist and Grove Roads in the Caste Village Shops. Start time is about 8 AM until whenever. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.



All are welcome, WASH members or not, amateurs or not! See you there!

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3FNM	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3RJM
AA3JS	KB3FQT	N3BSQ	N3VVL	W3RWS
K3BZW	KB3FZU	N3CCC	N3VWF	W3SRL
K3LIE	KB3GMN	N3CZZ	N3WPT	W3VE
K3OL	KB3GMO	N3HKQ	N3XFE	W3VFA
K3VX	KB3GMP	N3IDH	N3XI	W3WH
K3WR	KB3GMU	N3INT	N3YPB	W4ZE
KA3PPH	KB3GOT	N3KFD	N3YQY	WA3JPP
KA3TFB	KB3GZG	N3MJQ	N3ZCG	WB3BPH
KA3TWI	KB3HFP	N3QMV	N3ZEG	WB3GTL
KA3UPY	KC2JJB	N3RDV	N3ZEH	WN3BOT
KA3WZO	KD3JV	N3RHT	N3ZEL	WN3VAW
KA3YTS	KE3XB	N3RNK	N3ZNI	Barbara Mistic
KB3ANH	KE7FD	N3SBF	N4MIS	K3EED (SK)
KB3CPI	KE8RN	N3SRC	N8DPW	N3KEH (SK)
KB3DCO	KQ3DX	N3TBK	NP2JF	N3OBD (SK)
KB3DSB	NØPEU	N3TES	W3GEL	N3SKR (SK)
KB3ECD	NØVLR	N3UE	W3HND	W3ZLK (SK)
KB3ENX	NØWPV	N3UIW	W3JAF	
KB3EPI				
KB3ERQ				
KB3FGO				

Through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# A Computer Virus Tale

Scott Yonally N8SY courtesy of IARC/MASER *AirWaves Journal*

As some of you know, I've been experiencing some difficulties with my e-mail account for the last several months. It's do directly to receiving an E-mail with a virus. Boy, what an experience this has been. I've found out more about my system than I thought I'd ever want to know.

Viruses, those little nasty bugs that can get into your system just by opening up an E-mail that was infected from even your closest friends can lead to disastrous things on your computer, as I've found out. I've had to not only to completely delete my E-mail software but also have deleted a number of applications that are connected to it.

It all started innocently enough by opening up an E-mail from an associate that I've known for some time and had no fear from this kind of thing. That's when it happened. I noticed that the message was unusual in that it really didn't contain any information that made any sense. I didn't even think a thing about it until after I had deleted it and tried to open up my word processing program. That's when it dawned on me I had a problem. I couldn't get it to open up. It just sat there.

I thought about it for a moment, and then something out of the blue had me run my machine through its paces with my virus checker (I had been running Norton's Anti-virus Checker at the time). I had been pretty faithful at keeping up with the updates and felt that if there were a virus, I'd find it. No luck. The checker went through all the files and didn't find a thing. I then came to the conclusion that since it didn't find anything, it must have encountered the error with opening up Word because of something else getting in its way. Boy, I couldn't have been more wrong. After many days of not being able to get it to work correctly, I finally broke down and called a service technician in the computer business. He came out and temporarily loaded a newer version of Norton's Anti-Virus Checker. This time it did find a virus, in fact it found several. One of which had been in my machine for at least 6 months!! Well, needless to say, the viruses were disposed of.

I figured that's that and moved on. Well, I tried to move on too quickly. I still couldn't get Word, Excel, Outlook or any of the other Windows based programs to work well. They just weren't stable.

Feeling confident that there were no more viruses to contend with I called Microsoft and asked them for help. They worked me though a number of issues I had with getting Word, Excel and Outlook to come up the way that they used to. The virus that I had infected a number of files that was critical to making my Microsoft software family happy. Finally, after many hours on the phone with them, and I do mean many hours, we go it to work. Yes, the problems I encountered were due directly with the virus I had received. What a mess just one active virus had made. It was costly too. The service call from the computer technician and the call Microsoft came to over \$100. Not to mention the fact that I had to go out and purchase a new virus checker. For most this would have probably been the end of the story, but because I'm always looking for the latest versions of software to assist me in my endeavors for the club, this is not the case.

I received the latest version of Office XP as a present from my wife at Christmas. And, as Paul Harvey always says, "Here's the rest of the story." Christmas night I got brave, figuring that all was well because all seemed stable with my programs. I started out on the mission. The mission of "hell" as it ended up. I loaded Office XP on my computer hard drive and found nothing but problems and instability. I couldn't seem to get anything to load, and then when I finally got it to load, I couldn't keep it loaded. If I had 2 or more programs up, all would crash. It just was a nightmare all over again. I was really ready to just chock it all and start with a new computer. If I hadn't spent so much on Christmas gifts for the family, I'd probably just done that. But, as that this option wasn't available, I figured I'd hang in there with what I had. I just knew that it wasn't going to be easy. I knew that I'd regret not getting rid of all of it and start over.

Again a call to Microsoft revealed that the virus I had done more infection that originally thought. It revealed that the virus checker I had purchased now wanted to capture things in a hidden file and keep them tucked away for the future. On the surface this doesn't sound too bad of an idea. If you knew how to reclaim a file from there you could theoretically go back in time and recover a file. Nice idea if you have a hard drive large enough to do something like this. Unfortunately, I don't!! My "C" drive was fast filling up and I couldn't do anything about it. After a few more hours on

the phone with Microsoft, it was discovered that this was happening and they again walked me through a fix for this. I was once again back to a point were I could get the system to work, most of the time. I figured this would just have to do.

An error once in a while would be a nuisance, but nothing earth shattering, right?.. Well, once again I found that statement to be my downfall. All was well with the world until just a week ago, when that nuisance error popped its ugly head up much more often than it had in the past.

After investigating it thoroughly for several days I again found myself on the phone with Microsoft. After hours on the phone with them, it seemed hopeless. Nothing seemed to cure it permanently. I took their advice and starting unloading every program that wasn't absolutely essential to the computers' operation. I found several programs left over from devices that I had installed and then removed from my computer over the years.

I had also found a number of orphan files from times that I unloaded a program and didn't get all the files unloaded. I removed them as well. I finally got down to having just Windows and one application, Office XP loaded. That did it!! I had finally gotten to the point where the computer would receive E-mails. I could be working in Word and Excel and no crashes, no error messages. It was finally working as it was intended. Now I was ecstatic. I couldn't remember the last time my computer worked this good. Now came time to start loading the rest of the essential programs back in. Believe you me, I thought very long and hard in evaluating each and every program that I re-introduced back into the computer. Everything went fine. It took a number of days to do this as you can imagine, because I would load something and then wait for a day or two to see if anything would pop-up. I was fine until I came to the virus checker.

Now ain't that something, the program that, for whatever reason didn't catch the problems in the first place, would now be the program that didn't want to get along. After a number of tries, I found that it just was just no use. Nothing I did would make it work and play well with the rest of the programs. So, it was back on the phone to Microsoft. I wanted to know what they recommended I do from here. After much discussion they recommended another virus checker, **PC-Cillin**. Now if you haven't been keeping track, this would be the fourth virus checker I've tried in about as many weeks! Wow, if this didn't get it I was just going to toss the computer out and start entirely over with a brand spanking new one. Well, low and behold, it worked. Believe this or not, this commercial version checker was less expensive than most of the household kinds that are on the market! I'm amazed.

Now I know that this has been a very long story about one person's travels with a virus. It does have a point though — five of them:

1. You can't invest enough time or money into making sure that your computer is virus clean. It is unimaginable to me why anyone would want to create a virus that can, and does cause so much grief.
2. If you haven't checked your files on a regular basis for viruses you'll want to. These new viruses can live inside your computer for some time and then release its infection. I've been told of more severe damage than what was done to me by a virus, it actually wiped the CMOS clean so that the computer wouldn't boot up any longer. Most of the time you'll never realize it until you start receiving e-mails from folks you haven't talked to in some time, asking what your lated message to them was all about.
3. If you don't update your virus checker **at least one each week**, you'd better start. These viruses are cropping up every day, hundreds of them.
4. If you are experiencing problems with your computer programs running stable, don't just load a new upgrade on to your platform thinking the new version will fix the problems. It won't. It will most generally just make the problems worse.
5. Have you seen a pattern here? Don't be afraid to call the makers of the software. This is why they have the technical support available, unless of course you don't own the software. Then I'd recommend not using it in the first place. This kind of sharing of software is not usually acceptable by the makers of the software. They like to be paid for their work, just like anyone else. You do this by purchasing the program license. It's not only the legal thing to do, but it's also the right thing to do.

A number of the most popular brands of software titles are available in a 30 day trial version, including some of the most popular Microsoft packages. Don't be a tight wad, purchase the program!

*Editor's Note: I've had great success with InoculateIT for Windows from Computer Associates (formerly known as InocuLAN and Cheyenne AntiVirus) which is available for multiple platforms. There are many excellent packages available, but they're only as good as their last update...*

## Silent Keys



Sir Evan Nepean G5YN, the first amateur QRV from independent Tibet (as AC4YN 1936-1939), March 11<sup>th</sup>

Jack Williamson W3GC, co-founder of Barker & Williamson, March 19<sup>th</sup>

Harold Allison, father of Linda Allison N3YPB/2, April 17<sup>th</sup>

Thor Heyerdahl, famous for the LI2B Kon-Tiki expedition in 1947, April 19<sup>th</sup>

E. Laird Campbell W1HQ ex-W1CUT, ARRL HQ Staff (retired), April 26<sup>th</sup>

# Dayton Hamvention® 2002: A Primer

**Where are we staying?** The WASH contingent put together by Greg Babin KQ3DX is staying at the **University of Dayton Lawnview Apartments**, 201 Lawnview Avenue, Dayton. The front desk, which is staffed 24 hours a day, can be reached at 937-229-3665. There is parking behind the building, although the lot does tend to fill up. On arrival, check in at the front desk to receive your apartment key and parking permit. Check-in is permitted at any time. Check-out is by 12 noon on Sunday. Bed and bath linens are provided, but daily maid service is not available. Also, please note that the apartments do not have alarm clocks, televisions (although there is an antenna hookup available) or cooking utensils.

Each apartment consists of a kitchenette, bath, living room, and two two-bed bedrooms. The Hamvention is roughly 20 minutes north of the University campus, and maps to the HARA arena are available at the front desk.

If you have any other questions about the University of Dayton accommodations, please call the University's Kennedy Union & Conference Services Office at 937-229-3333.



**How do we get there?** Take I-70 Westbound to the I-675 interchange near Dayton. Proceed southbound to State Route 35. Go West towards Dayton to I-75. Take I-75 South one exit to #51 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard east to Stewart Street. Turn right and continue on Stewart Street to the University of Dayton entrance at Brown and Stewart Street. Make a right turn onto Brown Street and proceed 7 blocks to Irving Avenue. Turn left onto Irving and proceed 2 blocks to Lawnview Avenue (you will pass **Campus South**, an older dorm building, on your left). Turn Left onto Lawnview Avenue and then Left into the parking lot (shared by both dorm buildings).

**Is everyone staying there?** No, there will be other WASH members, and friends, acquaintances & total strangers scattered at campgrounds, hotels, motels, and other accommodations throughout the Dayton area, as usual.

**How do we all stay in touch with each other?** Most years we've monitored 146.955 Simplex (131.8 PL). Those who have cell phones who'll be going are asked to exchange numbers at or before the May club meeting so that we have a backup.

**Where do we park at Hamvention?** There is limited ADA parking on the HARA grounds themselves – contact DARA for more details. 6000+ parking spots are available in the fields across the street (behind the car dealerships & the OH Auto Emissions Testing facility), which entails a short walk. These lots cost under \$10/ vehicle/ day, but be aware that if it rains, they get muddy — fast — and some vehicles have been known to get stuck! Free parking is also available at the Salem Mall, which is about 2 miles down the road from HARA. Many hams park there and walk, others take a shuttle bus (cost \$2 this year) — W3RJM & W3WH have done this often in the past.

If you are concerned about lugging those boat anchors back to the vehicle, you can obtain a temporary loading permit at the Arena. They are usually good for only 20 minutes, and can be obtained from the guard at Entrance 1.

If you know someone who has a flea market space (or run across them) you can ask them to store your treasures for you while you walk around. Not everyone will agree to do this, though. If they do so, it's usually a good idea to offer to compensate them in some way for their hospitality

**What should I bring with me?** Many first time Hamvention attendees find these out the hard way. Here are some suggestions from some of the "veterans" of many Hamvention's past of things to watch out for:

- Get a lanyard to carry your Hamvention ticket around your neck. Keeps your ID visible and you don't have to worry about losing it — and they do check for it (and they will stop you) at every entrance point to the flea market and the HARA Arena itself.
- Bring rain gear regardless of the weather forecasts... you never know.
- Also bring sunscreen and be prepared to use it!
- Bring a small back pack or fanny pack to hold literature and other small goodies you pick up. And you will pick up plenty!

- Also, if you're planning on a lot of purchases, you may want to consider bringing a small collapsible suitcase hand cart or equivalent. Some people sell them in the flea market — at a premium. Some people also sell or rent hand trucks — at a premium. Spend your money on stuff, not rentals! Bring along some Bungee cords too, they come in REAL handy!
- Wear broken in, comfortable walking shoes — remember, if you're cruising the flea market, you'll be doing a lot of walking!
- Bring extra HT batteries — and charge them! Also wear an earpiece or headset, and be prepared for intermod — there'll be a lot of hams QRV!
- There will be long lines at the restrooms and most of the outdoor food vendors — plan accordingly, and learn patience. You may want to bring your own lunch and drinks to avoid lines, and if it looks like a hot day, bring plenty of bottled water (back pack, remember?) — the 16 oz. Water bottles you buy 6/\$1 in bulk at Sam's Club sell for \$3 each or more! There may not be a great variety available at HARA, so if you're parked at Salem Mall, consider taking the shuttle over & eating lunch there.
- Also be prepared for the HARA Arena itself (the indoor vendor area) to be packed, especially in the event of inclement weather. There is plenty of seating in the Ball Arena section, so it is not a bad idea to set up a rendezvous area up in those stands.
- Bring pen & paper to keep track of where the flea market bargains are. If you're looking for a specific item, ask others in the group to help you look. It does you little good to find a bargain if you can't go back later to get it!
- It is almost impossible to cover the entire flea market in one day — don't try. Keep in mind that the best bargains are on Sunday, but the best time to browse is on Friday when the crowd isn't as big.
- If you're not sure what to look for in terms of condition or pricing of an item, pair up with someone experienced. Most vendors will give you the straight story, but still... Keep in mind that prices on a particular item can vary, and it is not unusual to see two similar condition items for sale at wildly different prices. Really good bargains do exist in the flea market. Be prepared to dicker (most vendors do) but have cash ready — many can not or will not take checks, money orders, traveler's checks or credit cards.
- The flea market is the best place to find all sorts of odd little connectors and other bargains. Mendelson Electronic's tent, for one, is full of computer and electronic closeouts. But don't be surprised if the truly rare and unique items are a little pricey.
- Wear your WASH shirt, or your callsign hat, or a name badge, if you want to be recognized. Most amateurs do. And bring along some blank QSL or "eyeball" cards to exchange — you never know who you'll run into, and you will spot a lot of famous and well known amateurs in the flea market & the arena. Many of them travel incognito (watch out for the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH searching for more Hallicrafters gear for his shack!)
- WASH members traditionally stopped at Jeannie Bey's ("BY 1 HAT" / The Hat Lady) tables in the Rear Flea Market Tent to buy our annual "unofficial" Hamvention T-Shirts and Hats, Spaces 216 & 217. Sadly, we hear Jeannie is very ill and we don't know if she will be there this year or not.
- VE Testing is available at Hamvention in the arena (NOT at the High School). Check the Hamvention web site for up to date details.
- Hamvention will get extensive local TV, Radio, and newspaper coverage. If you want to get on Dayton TV, just look for the guy wearing the miniature tower and Yagi on top of his hard hat — every year, he seems to make it...
- There will also be forums on a wide assortment of amateur radio related topics in the HARA arena. Check the schedules for the exact times and locations of each forum. The QRP, FCC, Youth, ARRL, Contest & DX forums tend to be packed, so get there early if you can.
- There are formal dinners at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (downtown Dayton) on Friday & Saturday nights (tickets required & must be purchased in advance). They're followed by open Hospitality Suites sponsored by many Amateur Radio clubs, groups, organizations and/ or businesses that last well into the night. If you can, stop by the Hotel and stay for awhile — this may be your best chance to meet and talk with some of the top DX'ers and Contesters in the world. Just about all of the Big Guns, many Little Pistols, and quite a few Squirt Guns & Super Soakers will be around somewhere!

Thanks to the following for contributing to this article:

Greg Babin KQ3DX	Bill Hill W3WH	Dennis Ashworth K7FL
Jack Hartley K4WSB	Steve Adell KF2TI	Ken Indart WA4RPH
Ron Notarius WN3VAW		



# FM Net Manager Changes

Bryan Beyer K3OL, Net Manager

I will be stepping down as the FM Net Manager at the end of April. I want to thank all the participants of the weekly Net for making it a very enjoyable experience. Special thanks go out to all the Net Control Stations, your dedication has made my job easy.

As I look back on the last two years, we have increased participation in the Net Control Stations and the Net has continually increased repeat member check-ins. We need to look forward to meeting your needs by addressing the survey you took a few months ago. You have shown an interest in a simulated emergency drill, more special topic nets and further assistance to mentor new Net Control Stations.

I encourage you to keep this momentum going. I look forward to working with the various volunteers that will step forward to manage the Net. Thank you for this wonderful learning experience.

(Kevin Smith N3HKQ will be taking over as FM Net Manager as of May 1st. Thanks Kevin for stepping up to the plate! — Editor)

It is said that there are three types of people:  
**Pessimists, Optimists, and Engineers.**  
 The Pessimist says the glass is half empty.  
 The Optimist says the glass is half full.  
 The Engineer says the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.  
 — Jim Stahl K8MR

# Ten Things Amateur Radio Had Done for Me : Two Perspectives

Both courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

- 1) Encountered hundreds of interesting people around the block and around the world.
- 2) Increased my understanding of the geo-political world.
- 3) Enabled me to migrate a hobby to a rewarding military career.
- 4) Motivated me to keep learning & growing.
- 5) Influenced tomorrow by helping new hams.
- 6) Provided justifiable counterbalance to XYL's shoe & dress expenditures.
- 7) Helped me to battle stress.
- 8) Enlarged my understanding of local, state and national emergency communications.
- 9) Provided countless hours of wholesome enjoyment.
- 10) Permitted a farm boy from Indiana to realize a dream of becoming a ham.

— Glenn C. Peck KE5GK

- 1) Solder burn scars from trying to install PL-259s on coax.
- 2) Permanent finger twitch from too many hours using the bug.
- 3) Marriage breakup from buying too many expensive ham toys.
- 4) Lawsuit from interfering with a neighbor's cordless phones.
- 5) Fire damage from lightning hitting the antenna.
- 6) Reduced resale value from holes drilled in cars for antennas.
- 7) Obesity from spending so much free time just sitting in the ham shack.
- 8) Getting to know hams around the world by using just two phrases: "Kilo Three Alpha November" (repeated MANY times), and "QSL. You're also 59."
- 9) High blood pressure from the frustration of trying to bust too many pileups with just 100 Watts and a wire antenna.
- 10) The consumption of countless hours that, if used more productively, would have let me retire as a millionaire

— William J. Savage Jr. K3AN

**The Nittany ARC announced in the April 2002 NARC Newsette that Chuck McMullen K3CM will be the Chairman of the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party. Congratulations Chuck!**

# W8YX Historical Radio

## Location In Peril

Christopher Riedl N9WIV

An era is about to end at the University of Cincinnati.

Since 1924, two 80 foot towers have stood atop Swift Hall as a symbol of radio and its rich history. Still sturdy and stable, the University of Cincinnati Amateur Radio Club (UCARC, club call **W8YX**) has made the penthouse location on



Swift Hall its home since the building was built with the towers purposely being part of its structure.

However, the current building renovation plans call for destruction of the towers and removal of the club from the penthouse. The architects have

no desire to negotiate about the meaning of the history and usefulness of the current club location, which will now be described.

During times of crisis, such as large floods, or other events, the club has operated as a communications center for the city. In addition to service, a great deal of experimentation has occurred from the Swift Hall location and towers. The first voice contact with an airplane in the Cincinnati area was made by past club researchers. Additionally, our logs show that experimentation in the development of the mode known as FM occurred at the University of Cincinnati as well, again by the club. To compliment this rich history, the club still possesses a vintage setup which was purchased new in the early 1950's. This consists of a Collins 75A-3 Receiver, and a Collins KW-1 Transmitter. However, it is impossible to operate or repair this gear in the location we've been temporarily given.

One would think that such a valuable part of history would be important to the University, however this is simply not the case. Unfortunately, the future of Amateur Radio doesn't look the same as it used to, but the equipment and experience contained in history would certainly be appealing to many people. College is an excellent place to promote and find the Hams of the future, as some of the club members are seeking new licenses, or have had their interest revived as a result of the club. Additionally, for hams who cannot afford or use equipment due to space restrictions, this type of location is perfect to open the doors to the world.

If the campus architects have their way to "pretty" the campus during the renovation of Swift Hall, this treasure will become scrap metal and a room for "mechanical equipment stuff." Not a very noble destiny for a room which could once reach the world, aid the community, and promote the pursuit of knowledge for almost 80 years. Once this location is lost, the hope of gaining a suitable location on campus will be almost certainly gone.

Please, if you so feel inclined to voice your opinions on this matter, the contact information below. Long live the spirit and goodwill of Amateur Radio.

University of Cincinnati Contact Information:

Board of Trustees (513) 556-3233

Public Relations (513) 556-3001

[greg.hand@uc.edu](mailto:greg.hand@uc.edu)

Vice President's Office (Student Affairs) (513) 556-4119

[MitchelLivingston@UC.Edu](mailto:MitchelLivingston@UC.Edu)

*(Editor's Note: Other College & University club stations have faced or are facing similar threats. The original Penn State shack, W8YA/W3YA, burned down under mysterious circumstances never solved — it's location is now a smoke stack for an incenerator. The Penn State ARC K3CR had long been threatened with moving from the old Mechanical Engineering department that coveted it's shack, and has been recently removed to be losing their long time home in Engineering Unit "E" if the Engineering Units are torn down for proposed new construction for the Engineering Department(s). And the original University of Pittsburgh ARC W3YI lost it's home in the William Pitt Student Union Building during a similar renovation.)*

I'm passing this along so you will be aware of this possibility . . .

For the past four or five years when I operated in contests, I got blurred vision. Not just blurry vision but vision that is seriously blurred — to the extent that it would be dangerous to operate a car, which I have done.

About a month ago I was diagnosed as having glaucoma. This week I learned that I have intermittent acute angle glaucoma. The onset is caused by dilated pupils. When the pupils are dilated for long periods of time, like when I'm sitting in a fairly dark room in front of radios, pressure builds in my eyes and blurred vision results.

The good news is that it can be fixed. In fact the kind that I have is the only form of glaucoma that can be fixed. The eye doc fixed the right eye yesterday with a laser and will treat the left eye on Friday. This is a rare condition, but if you get seriously blurred vision when you contest (or otherwise operate) for long periods of time you might want have your eyes checked by an ophthalmologist.

In fact it isn't a bad idea anyway.

— Jay Pryor K4OGG (courtesy of the CQ-Contest Reflector)

Glaucoma is a disease of optic nerve damage that can lead to blindness without treatment.

There are many kinds of glaucoma. The most common type is open-angle glaucoma (90+%). It is slowly progressive over months to years. In its early stages, it is usually without symptoms. By the time you notice a "blind spot" in your vision, about 90% of your field of vision is gone and cannot be recovered. It is usually treated with eye drops, sometimes with laser, sometimes with surgery.

Narrow (or closed) angle glaucoma is much less common, but is a medical emergency, often leading to blindness within a few days, if not treated. Symptoms may include pain, redness, blurry vision and headache. It most often occurs in dim lighting, such as movie theaters and ham shacks. The "glaucoma attack" may be initially treated with medication, then followed by laser, which is usually curative.

2% of Americans of European descent have glaucoma. 10% of Americans of African descent have glaucoma. It often runs in families, but not necessarily.

If you are over 40, have your eyes examined every 2 years, even if you have no problems with them. If you are diabetic, make that every year.

— Dr. Barry Kutner W2UP (also courtesy of the CQ-Contest Reflector)

Disclaimer — I am an ophthalmologist licensed to practice medicine in PA and NJ. This is general information only and should not be interpreted as medical advice or the practice of medicine.

The North Jersey DX Association invites WASH members going to Dayton, along with DX'ers around the world, to visit their Hospitality Suite, located in the Jimmy Doolittle Room, 12th Floor, Crowne Plaza Hotel on Friday & Saturday Nights.

Or stop by Flea Market Space #133 during the day and say "hi" to Steve KF2TI (if he's awake) and other NJDXA members

## FYI Networks

For Your Information needs

FYI Networks, an Internet Service Provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of WASH their Basic Internet account for only \$18/month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet & FTP access, and in some areas Toll-Free 500 Area Code service. 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 three years!

## DX News Briefs

Elizabeth, PA amateurs WA3IOU & N3LGY will be QRV on all HF bands as **VP2MEB** and **VP2MAB** October 11<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. QSL both to WA3IOU via CBA. (*Hey Gino! You going to operate the Pa QSO Party from there? We all will need the DX Contact! — Editor*) More details can be found on their web site at <http://www.zelie.com/~genol/> — WA3IOU, KC3ET



The latest Dxpedition to **KH1** Howland & Baker Islands is QRV now through May 9<sup>th</sup>. They are using 1x1 call **K1B**. This is the first time Baker has been activated (all previous activity has been from Howland). More information and on-line logs can be found at <http://www.kragujevac.co.yu/KH1>. QSL CW, RTTY, SSTV, PSK31, FM & Satellite QSO's via YT1AD. QSL SSB QSO's via RZ3AA. Due to concerns over postal theft in Moscow, K3AIR is trying to form a "syndicate" for a large scale registered mailing to cut costs. E-Mail Mike at [k3air@arrl.net](mailto:k3air@arrl.net) for more information — YT1AD, VE3EXY, K3AIR

### The Sir Francis Drake Report:

"**ZL8RI**" has been operating sporadically since March. New Zealand amateurs report that ZL8RI was last issued in May 1996 to the Keramdec DX Association for their DXpedition to Raoul Island — ZL4HU

The QSL manager for **HC8N** is W5UE, as AA5BT is stepping down after 10 years and 50,000 QSL requests. Any QSL requests made direct to W5UE can be tracked online at <http://www.datasync.com/~w5ue/qsq-w5ue.html> This does not apply to bureau or AA5BT cards — N5KO/HC8N, W5UE

Members of Limerick Radio Club will be QRV as **EJØA** from the Aran Islands (EU-006) on May 24<sup>th</sup> — 26<sup>th</sup>. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters CW & SSB, 6 Meter operation is also planned. QSL via either E18EM or W2ORA — E18EM.

KØGHK and WAØETE will be returning to Ambergris Caye (NA-073) April 23<sup>rd</sup> — May 2<sup>nd</sup> as **V31KQ**. Look for them on both SSB and CW, especially on the higher frequency bands. QSL via WAØETE — K9RZ

Logs for the recently concluded **VK9ML** Mellish Reef expedition can be found at [www.users.bigpond.com/vk4cp/2002/logs/logbook.htm](http://www.users.bigpond.com/vk4cp/2002/logs/logbook.htm). There have been some reports or problems accessing the logs from some browsers — it appears the site may work best with IE 5 or IE 5.5 with Java enabled — VK2CE

April saw a lot of activity from **FOØ/N5XX**. According to his web site, he was located in Tahuata island in the Marquesas. However, if he operated solely from on-board his sail boat, the operation would not be considered "land based" and thus not eligible for DXCC or IOTA purposes — WC6DX

All direct QSL'S for **VE2/N1NK** (Zone 2) have been answered, as have all bureau cards received to date. — N1NK

The ARRL DXCC Desk has notified JA1BK that **VP6DI** has been accepted for DXCC credit. Cards may be submitted on or after June 1, 2002 — AF2C

Western Pennsylvania DXCC Card Checker Mike Lazaroff **K3AIR** has been accepted into the Duquesne University School of Law starting this fall (we're not sure whether or not to offer congratulations or deepest sympathies...) — K3AIR

A video of the **VP8THU** South Sandwich Islands Dxpedition is now available. More information and a synopsis can be found at <http://home1.pacific.net.sg/~jamesb/vp8thuvideo.htm>. James promises that it will be "a bit more dramatic than the last few" — 9V1YC

## QSL Routes

<b>4A1UN</b> via N1NK — N1NK	<b>TA3DD</b> via KZ5RO — K2DBK
<b>4L5O</b> via K1WY — W9OL	<b>T11C</b> via W3HMK — K3AIR
<b>4X4NJ</b> via WA4WTG — W9OL	<b>UU2JZ</b> via KG6AR — K2DBK
<b>7P8SR</b> via NY3N — UA1OMS	<b>V31KQ</b> via WAØETE — K9RZ
<b>A92Q</b> via KØDQ — WC6DX	<b>V51HK</b> via DL6OBS — K2DBK
<b>C6AMM</b> via K1CN — W9OL	<b>VP2EJ</b> via W5SJ — WW5L, W9OL
<b>FK8HC</b> via VK4FW — W8KNH	<b>VP2MAB</b> via WA3IOU — WA3IOU
<b>FOØPT</b> via OE6BVG — W9OL	<b>VP2MEB</b> via WA3IOU — WA3IOU
<b>FO/HG9B</b> via HA8IB — OE1002419	<b>XE1GKG</b> via N8SHZ — K2DBK
<b>H7DX</b> via DL7CM — K14RU	<b>XE1UN</b> via N1NK — N1NK
<b>HC8N</b> via W5UE — N5KO	<b>XX9TEP</b> via K8EP — W6LFO
<b>J37LR</b> via VE3EBN — W9OL	<b>YBØA</b> via W3HMK — K3AIR
<b>JY4NE</b> via K3IRV — W6DXO	<b>ZK2CA</b> via NW7O — PY1OL
<b>OM7M</b> via OM3PA — W9OL	

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, 425 DX News, OPDX News, & ARRL DX Bulletins for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L/ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR/ *The Daily DX* for confirmations & additional information.





## WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

### For Sale:

- (1) Antenna Specialist AP-143 2M On-Glass antenna. Good condition \$35,
- (2) MFJ 862 2M/220/440 Cross Needle SWR/Power Meter. Brand new condition \$40

Contact Jeff Farrar W3JAF 724-926-2760 [jeff@farrar.com](mailto:jeff@farrar.com)

**For Sale:** Yaesu FT-50R dualband handheld with Yaesu battery . Package includes: MaHa NiMH battery, Yaesu Dry Cell battery case, Yaesu Dual Slot Desk Rapid Charger, deluxe hard leather case, speaker microphone, Yaesu DC filtered power cord, Yaesu CT-30 microphone adapter for separate packet audio connections, orange and black rubber protectors. Sold as a package only, \$275.00. Contact Bob Reed W2CE 732-657-9339 [w2ce@arrrl.net](mailto:w2ce@arrrl.net)

### For Sale:

- (1) Yaesu FT-1500M 2 Meter Mobile. Includes manual, mounting bracket and original packing. \$100.
- (2) MFJ Practice Code Generator \$20

Contact Bob McCloskey W3RJM [w3rjm@arrrl.net](mailto:w3rjm@arrrl.net)



**HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
P.O. Box 201  
Canonsburg, PA 15317-0201  
Toll-Free 1-800-545-8881

Fax: (412) 746-5944  
[gallina@usaor.net](mailto:gallina@usaor.net)

"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:  
Radio Equipment                      Computer Equipment  
Antennas Rotors & Towers          Computer Media & Software  
Cellular Telephones  
Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage

**Wanted:** Used Kenwood TM-V7A. Good condition & reasonably priced only, please! Ben Williams KB3ERQ [para40@atbi.com](mailto:para40@atbi.com)

**For Sale:** Diamond K550 Super Gainer Luggage Rack Antenna Mount. Has a quick release knob to allow the antenna to be tipped over to a horizontal position for easy access to low clearance areas. Fits all SO-239/PL-259 type antennas up to 45" tall. Fits all minivans & SUV's with a luggage rack. Never used, still in plastic. \$30.00 firm.

Kevin DeRose N3KFD 724-348-0255 [kfderose@usaor.net](mailto:kfderose@usaor.net)

**For Sale:** Kenwood TS-520S in the original box; excellent condition, \$300.00; Kenwood R-599D and T-599D twins in excellent condition, \$425.00. Will trade either or both for interesting USA-made boat anchor equipment of interest [to me]. Many parts for 1956 or 1955 Packards; have a '56 Executive parts car

**Wanted:** Interesting USA or British built boat anchors, tubes or solid state. Particularly looking for a Dentron Clipperton QRO amplifier, MTL-2500 antenna tuner, or any low production items that I don't already have.

George Misis KE8RN 412-486-8566 [KE8RN@juno.com](mailto:KE8RN@juno.com)

**For Sale:** Hewlett-Packard Business Ink-Jet Model 2250 Printer. Brand new in box, never used and includes all books & software. Full color, photo quality, fast. Sells for \$500+ on-line, only \$300. Pete Cole N3RNX [pcole@sgi.net](mailto:pcole@sgi.net)

There will be a SkyWarn class given by the National Weather Service on Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002, at 7 PM, at the Harmony Volunteer Fire Company building. All welcome.

For information or directions contact Ray Albert N3XCD at [n3xcd@arrrl.net](mailto:n3xcd@arrrl.net) or 724 538 5864 or Ernie Logan N3YTF at 724 452 5582 9 AM- 5 PM.



The class is sponsored by Butler County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, Jackson Township Emergency Management, and the Harmony Volunteer Fire Company

## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy American Radio Relay League

*NEWINGTON, CT, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002* — The FCC now has cleared the longstanding vanity call sign application backlog that had built up as a result of mail problems last October. The Commission issued another 328 vanity call signs this week. That completed the processing of applications received at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office through March 25<sup>th</sup> — right at the typical 18-day vanity application waiting period.

"We are back on track for vanity processing," an FCC Private Wireless Division Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch staff member told ARRL. While not ruling out any problems down the road, she indicated that everything was working fine now, and that the FCC would resume its normal nightly vanity runs.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, congratulated the FCC's licensing staff on the accomplishment. "It's been a long time coming," he said. "A great deal of effort on the part of the FCC personnel in Gettysburg and some on the part of ARRL went into making this happen.

At its peak, the vanity backlog was estimated at more than 2000 applications. The FCC resumed routine vanity processing in early March. With the exception of a four-day hiatus to deal with a processing anomaly later that month, the FCC has been slowly but surely whittling away the application stack. The processing of routine Amateur Service applications was unaffected by the vanity problems.

The vanity holdup began after some two weeks of paper vanity applications sent off last October for anthrax decontamination were not returned to Gettysburg. Since FCC policy continues to give equal priority to paper and electronic vanity applications, vanity processing was halted when the paper applications didn't come back.

FCC staffers — with help from the ARRL — used payment information to contact those who had filed and have them submit new applications. Last month, the FCC began receiving the applications that had been missing.

Amateurs with pending applications may take advantage of the FCC Call Center's toll free number, 888-CALL FCC (888-225-5322) or may initiate an application search via the Universal Licensing System (ULS). Information on the amateur vanity call sign system is available on the FCC's Vanity Call Sign page.



April 1<sup>st</sup> saw some changes to the **eQSL.cc** "Electronic QSL Card Center" web site. Statements on the site made by eQSL Owner, Founder and Webmaster Dave Morris N5UP indicated that the changes were an attempt to make eQSL's acceptable for the ARRL DXCC and other awards. There was some controversy by eQSL supporters and users over the changes and how and why they were implemented. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, most of the changes were removed and N5UP indicated that the attempts had not succeeded. "It is their belief that electronic QSLs cannot be made secure enough to meet their requirements unless each one is encapsulated in a digitally signed package."

Wayne Mills N7NG from the ARRL indicated in a private email that this statement was "accurate, and pretty fair." He also indicated that the League was serious about looking into the possibilities of recognizing paper QSLs from eQSL.cc, but the uncertainty about the security of the data (unprotected by digital signatures) could not be overcome. — Information Courtesy of N5UP & N7NG

(Minutes Continued from page 4)

**President's Report (NØVLR):** Konrad, W3KK is here to speak about the UPMC Health System City of Pittsburgh Marathon. May's speaker will be John, N3MSE the ARRL's Western PA Section Manager. John will speak on homeland security.

**New Business:** None.

**For the Good of the Order:** Ed, N3ZNI has tickets for WACOM Hamfest drawing. See Ed if you would like to purchase them. Ron, WN3VAW said that the club picnic is on again during the Breezeshooters Hamfest. It will be potluck - contact Ron to see what to bring.

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by Bob, W3RJM it was seconded by Ron, WN3VAW and carried. The meeting was **adjourned** at 19:46 and followed by a presentation on ham radio volunteers at the UPMC Health System City of Pittsburgh Marathon by Konrad W3KK

## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8 AM until 3 PM

Butler Farm Show Grounds, Butler PA

Fly-In Available at Roe Airport

Talk-in on W3UDX/R 147.360 (+)

VE Session courtesy Ellwood City ARA VE Team

Maps and More Information Available at

[www.breezeshooters.net](http://www.breezeshooters.net)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual WASH Picnic

### *At the Breezeshooter's Hamfest*

Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, ~11:30 AM until ~1 PM

At the WASH Location in the Flea-Market

Somewhere in the vicinity of the Grandstand

Along the Fence (Look for the Hex-Beam!)

Spend the morning at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest meeting your fellow WPA hams, buying and/or selling equipment, & dodging golf-carts full of Breezeshooters.

Then sit down, relax, and join your fellow club members for lunch, friendship, operate N3SH (if set up) & a chance to brag about the deals you made or passed on. This will again be a pot-luck/covered-dish style picnic, so everyone is asked to bring a food, snack, or desert along to share. Contact Ron WN3VAW to find out what we need. There is NO COST to attend the picnic, but it is NOT open to the general public, only to WASH Members, Family, Friends and Invited Guests

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual

# *North Hills ARC Hamfest*

Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002

8 AM until 3 PM Rain or Shine

Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road, Wexford, PA

Talk-In on 147.090 (+)



# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application/Renewal for 2002



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

(check quarter →)  
(check one ↓)

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>1st Qtr</b> <b>Jan-Mar</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>2nd Qtr</b> <b>Apr-Jun</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>3rd Qtr</b> <b>Jul-Sept</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>4th Qtr</b> <b>Oct-Dec</b>	
<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: \_\_\_\_\_

New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector  
 I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List  
[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

# Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company"

## Embroidered Shirts and Hats

Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost
<b>Sub-Total</b>					
<b>6 % Sales Tax</b>					
<b>Total Enclosed</b>					

<u>Available</u>	<u>Cost (S M L XL)</u>	<u>Cost (2X 3X 4X)</u>
Golf Shirts	\$20.00	\$22.00
Rugby Shirts	\$20.00	\$20.00
Light Jackets	tba	tba
Lined Jackets	tba	tba
Hats	\$10.00	\$10.00

Club logo is not currently available on the hats due to size limitations. Contact TLC Embroidery for more information.

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

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

Make checks payable to Sharon Cox  
Mail to: The TLC Embroidery Company  
366 Dry Ridge Road  
West Alexander, PA 15376

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703



## Inside This Issue:

- Ready for Dayton? A primer for those heading there for the first time!
- Ever wonder what happens if your computer gets hit with a little nasty virus or worm?
- A "Goodbye" from our FM Net Manager
- Another historic college Amateur Station in peril of being renovated out of it's home!
- Don't forget: The Pittsburgh Marathon Needs You (& 150 of your closest friends!)

**All this and more... waiting for your right inside these pages...**



Here's what the N3SH 2002 Field Day Site has in store for us. Above, a view from the site. Below, a view of the shelter prior to cleanup. Photos courtesy of & ©2002 Bill Hill W3WH



## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.  
Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor  
3505 Rosalia Avenue  
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2317



N3SH / WA3SH  
[www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)