



# WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 4 Issue 6

June 2002

N3SH  
WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

## N3SH Field Day 2002 Ready to Roll !

**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 again to Hank KB3FNM for facilitating the move to this great site.

We are planning to operate 3 stations as N3SH Class 3A, plus the "Get On the Air" station as WA3SH.

**Please let us know if you can help setup or operate at Field Day 2002, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>d</sup>.**

**Setup** begin at 10:00 AM Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lunch around Noon. We should be on the air at 2:00 PM. Continuous food and beverages.



K3VX and W3WH are asking for the hours you will be available to **operate** or **log** in the following time periods:

- Saturday Afternoon
- Saturday Evening
- Overnight
- Sunday Early Morning
- Sunday Late Morning.

Please pick a time slot and mode. Reply by e-mail ([billhill@nb.net](mailto:billhill@nb.net) or [icomden@mindspring.com](mailto:icomden@mindspring.com)) or at the meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be a 24 operation, so **tear down** begins at 2:00 PM on Sunday. Finally, finish the eats and drinks & head home.

**Reminder:** 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. We need volunteers for the Digital and Tech Solutions committees, and we really need some of our newer amateurs (or those who've been off the air for awhile) for the "Get On The Air" station. 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, W3JAF
2. **Batteries** (asking N3BSQ & W3RJM)
3. **Computer logging** - K3VX, WN3VAW & NØPEU
4. **Digital** (PSK, RTTY, etc) - 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, 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 2002 Co-Chairmen

### Ø Beat

Paul Lusardi NØVLR, President

If anyone tells you that we have a dying hobby or a downturned economy — they DID NOT attend Dayton Hamvention this year. I am sure that the expected "numbers" were down, but the vendors' aggressive pricing as well as the well-orchestrated forums, focusing on emergency preparedness helped foster what seemed to be a steady stream of purchases from hams around the globe.

The Hamvention is not just about selling though. As I walked through Café and the various hallways (OK, so I got lost JUST once) I saw LOTS of people being re-acquainted with one-another. It was nice to see that the major manufacturers are still serious about the hobby, by producing some new toys for us to drool over. Ten-Tec, Yaesu, SGC and a slew of others announced or demonstrated their new *objects d' resistance*.

The weather... well, if you were a sweatshirt vendor, you did well. The mercury hovered around 40-ish, with scattered rain.

The accommodations were top-notch (thanks Greg!) and it was nice having adjacent rooms to visit other local club members.

Some things I won't forget about Dayton this year:

- Talking to a long-winded ham on 146.52, who was 75 years old, who was wiring his friend's IC-706 through the cigarette lighter, as they were driving!
- The Outback steakhouse - table for 16 please!
- Dining at the Salem Mortuary, errr, uhm... Mall
- Dinner at Dominic's: table for 20 please! Never mind, make that 12.
- Shawn in the flea market: "put that thing down! it's a docking station for a 386!"
- And the number one highlight... Ben KB3ERQ FINALLY bought a mobile rig.

Can't wait till next year - hope you can join us!

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## Next Meeting: June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, starting at 7:00 PM.

Our guest speaker will be Barry Kaplan KB3GKT from the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix to talk about the importance of Amateur Radio to the race.

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

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

LOOKING  
AHEAD:

- North Hills ARC Hamfest, July 14<sup>th</sup>
- Skyview Radio Society Hamfest, August 25<sup>th</sup>
- ARRL WPA Section Convention & Butler Co. ARA Hamfest, September 8<sup>th</sup>
- Pennsylvania QSO Party, October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

# June 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Breezeshooter's Hamfest	ARRL Atlantic Division Convention & Rochester Hamfest, Rochester NY					
2 Elwood City ARA Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	3 Greater Pgh. VHFS Meeting Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	4 SHBP&M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net WACOM Net	5 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	6 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting	7 Elco ARS Meeting	1 RA Erie VE Test BVARA VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
9 QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	10 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	11 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft.Venango M&K Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Net	12 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	13 WASH Meeting	2 Rivers ARC Ham 'n' Eggs Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast	8 June VHF Contest Breezeshooters VE Test North Hills ARC VE Test Tri-County CW ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
16 Elk Co ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	17 Steel City ARC VE Test Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net	18 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net	19 Huntington Co ARC Meeting SATERN VE Test Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	20 Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Meeting	21 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad County ARC Meeting	15 Kid's Day 2 Rivers ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
23 Field Day QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	24 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	25 Triangle ARC Meeting Mercer Co ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net WACOM Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	26 Ft. Armstrong WA Mtng North Hills ARC Activity Night Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	27 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting	28	22 Field Day Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
30 QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	7/1 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	7/2 SHBP&M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	7/3 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	Fourth of July WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting	7/5 Elco ARS Meeting	29 WASH Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
						7/6 Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net

## 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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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

The **WASH Breakfast Gang** met as usual on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at **Dietz's Restaurant**. In attendance were N3RNX, N3SBF, N3ZNI, N3ZEL, W3RWS, KB3HNM, N3ZNI, N3ZEL, KB3FNM, KB3GOT, K3VX, W3SRL & Jenny, and WN3VAW & Jessie. Topics included Dayton, Field Day, Breezeshooters, antennas, friends in the hospital, and most anything else we could think of! Come and join us for coffee and discussion! The next Club Breakfast will be Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads. Come down and share a cup of coffee with us!

**Thanks again** to WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE for coming down and talking to the club about the present and future of Amateur Radio at



our May meeting. Among the many things that John discussed was legislation that's being worked on in Harrisburg to bring some form of PRB-1 – type legislation to Pennsylvania that will permit most Amateurs to erect antenna towers up to 80 feet in height. In addition, John wanted most ARRL members to know that they should start checking the WPA Section page on the ARRL web site in the near future (as this is written) for news and information.

**Section Leadership at Field Day:** John also wants to remind all of the clubs in Western Pennsylvania that he and Assistant SM Sally Cripe N3MYZ will try to visit as many Field Day sites as possible, and anyone interested in a visit should contact him with directions. John & Sally, and anyone else interested in visiting a Field Day site, please consider yourselves invited to WASH Field Day! Map and talk-in frequencies located on the back page.

**Dayton Hamvention 2002 Roundup:** As Paul says over on Page 1, everyone who went to Hamvention this year had a good time. Some of the comments that we've received:

N3IDH: A few random thoughts:

- Can't believe I forgot the camera again!
- Best Sales Pitch: At the Mendelson tent: "These paper shredders were only slightly used by Arthur Anderson Co. for just a few Enron papers."
- Worst Sales Pitch: "Do you know how much it cost me to be here?"
- Best Place To Rest: The Icom booth, collect the cool maps and charts while you listen to the guys from the A5ØA, PWØT, XRØX, K1B, and T19M dx-peditions.
- The guy with "helmet tower" was there but where was "goat cam?"

W3JAF: Half the fun was having about half the club there!

WN3VAW: Had a blast as always. Again, my personal thanks to everyone who made it possible in one form or another for me to join everyone at Hamvention this year, I'm very glad I didn't miss it!

**Breezeshooters' Hamfest & Club Picnic:** Last Call! With any luck, you will have this newsletter in hand no later than the Saturday afternoon before the Breezeshooter's Hamfest. So consider this a last reminder that if you are planning to go, we're once again having our pot-luck /covered dish picnic starting about 11:30 AM. If you're planning to come (and we hope you are!) please contact N3ZEL or WN3VAW and let one of us know what you're



planning to bring so that we can coordinate appropriately. Don't know if you're going or decide to come at the last minute? Just come, and remember, ice is always needed...

**Club news is a little sparse this month**, which happens sometimes. So keep us informed, or some of those candid photos taken at club meetings will start to show up here!

## 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!

According to the FCC ULS database, the following licenses were issued in late April and early May:

- Technician: Richard Bell KB3IAC
- General: James Shull N9NGQ  
Gary Vega KB3CWE
- Extra: Dennis Ardinger K3VMZ  
Frank Bobro KB3FZU  
Shawn Djernew NØPEU  
Jerome Hoeniges N5RII  
Bob Stoner W3RWS  
Charles Toth K3PCH

WASH VE Team:

- Jeff Farrar W3JAF
- Don Fincher KA3WZO
- Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
- Bob Ketzell KB3IN
- Ron Notarius WN3VAW
- Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
- Charles Shoemaker N3CCC

Of course, many, many thanks to all of the VE's for coming out and lending a hand at this test session. And Congratulations to all our amateurs and looking forward to hearing them on the air!

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

**16 States have signed PRB-1 type legislation permitting Amateur Radio towers. ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN reports that a bill in the NY State Legislature, that would make New York the 17<sup>th</sup> state, is tied up and may not be acted on before the end of the session. Any NY amateurs are asked to write their representatives and request that the bill be acted on and passed prior to June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

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

- July 11<sup>th</sup>: Jeff Leach N3YEA, District Emergency Coordinator
- TBA: Tom Dandrea N3EQF, EQF Software

# Minutes, May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, Secretary, WASH

The Club President Paul, NØVLR **called the meeting to order** at 19:14 local time. There were 29 members and guests in attendance.

**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 April meeting as published in the newsletter by Steve, W3SRL, and seconded by Bill, W3WH, and carried.

**Treasurer Report (N3RDV):** Mark, N3RDV was not present, his report was read on his behalf by Paul, NØVLR. Mark reports that the club's finances are in good shape.

**Secretary Report (KB3FZU):** No report.

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** Jacque, N3ZEL reports that the next VE test session will be held on the third Thursday of July (July 18<sup>th</sup>) [Editor's note: future VE test dates are now listed in the newsletter on Page 3]. The new Extra pool questions take effect in June. If you want to try to pass with the old pool there are other clubs that are giving exams before June.

**Repeater Report (W3SRL / N3RNX):** Steve, W3SRL reports that a tune-up trip was made to the repeaters. Pete went through a total rework of the 2 meter duplexer, and all is well. To quote Steve, "The repeaters they are a repeating."

**I-Link (N3UE):** Ed, N3UE reports that I-link has been running well.

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** No Report.

**Public Service:** June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> are the dates for the **MS 150 Escape To The Lake** Bike Tour. Ham operators are needed. If you would like to help or need more information please contact Mark at [n3rdv@arrl.net](mailto:n3rdv@arrl.net). Thanks to those who helped with the **MS Walk, The March of Dimes Walk** and **The UPMC Health Systems / City of Pittsburgh Marathon**.

**Contest Report (K3VX):** The club will be participating in the VHF Contest on June 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be operating from Paul's place. It is on McKee road about a mile from US 40. Look for details in the next newsletter and on the net. The planned operating position is two 8' tables in the yard. If rains the garage is available or there is some space in the shack.

**Activities Report (K3VX, W3WH):** Field day – Larry, K3VX will be held at the Library Sportsman's Association. There are some committee lists in the newsletter — Bob will be the digital committee. Jeff, W3JAF is the antenna committee, Kevin & Frank will be the publicity committee. A get on the air station (GOTA) will be set up for field day. Carol will bring an ICOM IC-746 to serve as the GOTA station. There are tables at the location but **NO CHAIRS** so bring one please. There will be a map to the Field Day location in the June newsletter. The site is the Library Sportsman's Association they are being very accommodating to the club they are providing the facilities and use of their buildings.

**Newsletter Report (WN3VAW):** No Report.

**President's Report (NØVLR):** Tonight's guest speaker is, John Rodgers, N3MSE – Western PA ARRL Section Manager. June's guest speaker will be Barry Kaplan, KB3GKT of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** At the Breeze Shooters Hamfest the club picnic will be in the same general area as in the last few years.

A question was raised - Is there any interest in acquiring a Contest Voice Keyer for club? The cost is about \$180. Steve, W3SRL motioned and Ed N3ZNI seconded. There was some discussion – Bill, W3WH said it is not needed for Field Day as the radios that we have lined up have that feature built in. It could be used in future contests. A price of \$150 at HRO was discussed. Possibility to find one at Dayton — The old one was silver. Its main problem was that it is noisy. They can be found at a low price. A vote was taken, all were in favor except one, Ed, N3UE opposed.

**For the Good of the Order:** Should the club buy a few Breeze Shooters tickets? A motion was made to purchase \$60 worth by KB3CPI second W3SRL.

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by KB3GMN and seconded by W3RJM and carried. The meeting was **adjourned** at 19:42 and followed by a **presentation** by ARRL WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE on Amateur Radio and Homeland Security.

# WASH Spotlight: N3ZNI @ EQF



Ed N3ZNI (right) enjoys a chuckle with Tom N3EQF and Patty N3TFV at the EQF Software booth at Dayton 2002. Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Dave Wagner KB3GOT

Every month we're going to try and feature a different WASH club member and/or something about them in the WASH Spotlight. We want to recognize everyone, not just the gang who stand up (or stand out) at meetings. Submissions for the WASH Spotlight should be submitted to WN3VAW.

## Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, June 29<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	N3RNX	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 May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# How to Succeed At QSL'ing "Without Really Trying"

Ron Notarius WN3VAW

In recent years I've had very good success in getting my DX QSL cards answered, both from domestic and overseas managers and from the DX stations direct. High return QSL rates are sometimes difficult to achieve, especially amongst those amateurs who are just starting out and haven't learned all of the "tricks" that sometimes help get one that rare or wanted QSL card when others fail at the task.

A new amateur recently asked for advice on how to succeed. While I don't pretend to know all of the answers, here's what I told him:

1. Learn patience. Cards do not return overnight. Expect a minimum of 10 days for domestic cards and 4 weeks for overseas cards. 6 weeks for a domestic card and 3 months for overseas is not uncommon. In the cases of a major DXpedition, expect 4 to 6 months for a return, since most of the time (and there are exceptions) cards are not printed until after the DXpedition returns and the managers literally have tens of thousands of QSL requests to check through.
2. Listen, listen, and listen some more. Listen to the DX station when you work him/her, and before and after. With the exception of contest environments when serious contesters are trying to maximize QSO rates, take a few moments before and after your QSO. Listen specifically for any instructions the DX has regarding QSL'ing. Sometimes different managers handle different modes or bands (such as 6 meters). Sometimes a guest operator (as in the recent 4U11TU operation by K1ZZ) will QSL direct or have his/her own manager.
- 2a. Also, if you have packet or can check an Internet packet node, check the cluster to see if anything has been posted.
- 2b. Subscribe to some of the free ([OPDX](#), [425 DX](#), etc) or pay ([Daily DX](#), [Weekly DX](#), [QRZ DX?](#)) DX e-mail information services as they usually have complete and detailed QSL information.
- 2c. Learn where the Internet search engines for QSL information are and use them. But keep in mind that sometimes the wrong information or out of date information gets listed even in the best of them.
3. Make sure the DX station has your call correct, which can sometimes be difficult in a big pileup. It's been suggested that if you are in doubt, log the calls of the stations worked before and after you so that you have some "proof" you made the Q & the call in the log is busted. Obviously, you can't QSL the station if you're not in the log!
- 3a. And it should go without saying, make sure you have the DX call correct also! Too often, someone sees a spot for a rare DX, jumps on the frequency, beats the pileup, and logs the call wrong because the call posted on the cluster has a typo or some other error. Go back to rule 2 — listen, listen, & listen some more!
4. Use "security" envelopes, even domestically. Or wrap the contents of the envelope in a thin blank sheet of paper. Or both. Cuts down on potential theft, and the sheet of paper "smooths" the envelope out a little so that there's less chance of postal machinery snagging on and destroying an envelope.
5. Minimize use of call letters on the envelope. You're usually OK on envelopes going to stations or managers in the US, Canada, and most of Europe. But the sad fact is that there are way too many areas of the world where people handling the envelopes covet cash, and have learned that call letters indicate an amateur radio related piece of mail, like a QSL card request with dollars and/or IRC's.
- 5a. Consider having your envelopes printed professionally with a return address, or use a good quality laser or ink jet printer to print them on the fly. Consider strongly making them look like a professional letter, not a personal one. Some people have gone so far as to make them appear to be "junk" mail (as in "congratulations! you may have won 2 IRC's by opening this letter!" ... ok, only Ed McMahon could get away with that one)
- 5a1. If you're not going to fake a company name and you're married, use your spouse's name (as in "John & Jane Smithe" not "John Smithe"). Again, makes it appear to be something other than an a QSL request.
- 5c. Use your home printer to print the mailing address right on the envelope. Hand written addresses do not look professional. Mailing labels sometimes look like junk mail, but do not look professional.
- 5d. Tape envelopes shut. Prevents humidity and other factors from "accidentally" opening sealed envelopes.
- 5e. Some people recommend cutting a corner off the envelope so that the contents of the envelope can be inspected. That one has never done much for me, but many swear by it.
6. Make sure your address is complete on your enclosed SAE or SASE. If sent domestically, make sure you have enough postage on the SASE (might as



**Congratulations to Tony Huf KG4JJK, son of Ted W4ZE. Tony completed his basic military training for the US Air Force on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002, at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.**

**He is now in the Security Forces Technical School at Lackland AFB for another 10 ½ weeks. Once he graduates, he will receive his permanent assignment.**

**Tony was active from W4ZE's station during the last WASH 2 Meter FM contest and worked several club members.**

**Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2002 Ted Huf W4ZE**

well start using \$.37 now, it goes into effect very soon. You can get sheets of \$.03 stamps at the post office now with no hassle -- beat the rush!). If sent internationally, don't forget to include "USA" as some DX get quite annoyed having to add that.

- 6a. If you have them, affix a USPS Label 19B sticker to the SAE (that's the current official Air Mail label). You can get them free for the asking at most post offices, assuming the clerk isn't in a bad mood.
- 6b. If you print your SAE's, and your software permits it, include the mailing bar code. Use the ZIP+4 number if you know it (and you should). Also, check your mail, especially bulk mail or commercial mail. Seems to be an extra 2 digits added on to the bar codes that the USPS doesn't advertise (for example, mine is 15234-2317+71). Anything that helps route that envelope back to you, use! (See also 5a1 above)
7. To IRC or not IRC, that is the question? Most DX will either not respond to your direct request, or will reply only via the bureau, unless you include something to help cover the cost of postage. Sometimes they request more than is absolutely necessary for return postage; in some cases, this helps cover miscellaneous costs including power and food. There have always been rumors about certain managers getting "rich," which is beyond the scope of this article. Be so as it may, follow the DX's instructions if any as to IRC or Green Stamp (US Dollars) quantities or preferences.
- 7a. Some areas of the world prohibit their citizens to possess US or other foreign currency. It is usually a bad idea to send Green Stamps to these areas.
- 7b. Banks in some areas of the world charge large fees to convert US or other currency to theirs. So the DX may have to wait until s/he has enough on hand to make the conversion and related costs worthwhile.
- 7c. Some areas of the world do not accept IRC's or no longer accept the older IRC's (including the green "no expiration" ones we've used for years), Universal Postal Union rules notwithstanding (some countries do not belong to the UPU). In these cases, US \$ makes more sense.
- 7d. In some areas, a dollar buys more air mail postage than an IRC. In other areas, the opposite is true. And some places want more than one IRC to cover air mail back to the US. How do you find out? Ask questions on one of the many DX & QSL reflectors. Also check out the fine IRC chart that Bill W9OL has at <http://www.qsl.net/w9ol/ircchart.txt>
- 7e. Where do you get an IRC? You can buy them at the Post Office, currently for \$1.75 each — if you can find a Post Office that knows what to do with them and a clerk who can be bothered (IRC's are a little arcane and many don't know how to deal with them, another matter outside the scope of this article). DON'T. Instead, contact a domestic QSL manager (I usually get mine from Steve KU9C, occasionally from others including Joe W3HNK and Bernie W3UR) and buy them from him. Why? Because they can only redeem them for an \$.80 stamp. So buy them for about a buck each -- saves you \$.75 per, and lets them buy those stamps with a little extra. (What happens to that little extra? Pays for the QSL card

*(QSL Tips Continued on page 7)*

**Go placidly amid the QRN and the QRM, and remember what peace there may be in S&P'ing. As far as possible, without surrendering your frequency, be on good terms with all stations. Speak/send your exchange clearly, and Listen carefully to the response, even to the casual and non-contester types for they, too, have point value! Avoid loud and aggressive stations, they are not worth the cost in rate to fight them. If you compare your Q-total mid-contest with others, you may become vain or bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser-reported Q-totals than yours. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own station, however humble; it is a real possession in helping the Club Aggregate Score. Exercise caution in playing with new software BEFORE the contest for untested software is full of trickery. But let not this blind you to what virtue there is in new software; Many stations have used new software; and everywhere there are useful upgrades. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign pleasure over a new multiplier. Neither be cynical about propagation; for in the face of all plans, propagation is as predictable as the wind. Take kindly the counsel of the contest sponsors, gracefully surrendering to their requirements for log submittals. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden attacks of Murphy. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness of being on a band and calling constant CQ's without answers. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a contester and licensed operator; no less than the others who don't contest on the bands; you have a right to be there. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the fortunes of contesting will change, as they should. Therefore be at peace with Murphy, whatever you conceive him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the QRM and confusion of the contest, keep an accurate and honest log. With all its QRM, QRN, and visits by Murphy, it is still fun. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy. And remember the cry:  
**“WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR!!”****

Adapted from "Desiderata" by Chuck Reville K3FT

The Pennsylvania QSO Party web pages have been updated with the 2001 Plaque winners. They can be found at the new Nittany ARC web site, [www.nittany-arc.org/paqso.html](http://www.nittany-arc.org/paqso.html)  
 — KB3EIA

## 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](mailto: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!

While sitting in the HARA Ice Arena stands at Dayton Hamvention, talking to Mike K3AIR about a few things, a fellow came by handing out flyers. They were advertising an Italian-built line of commercial linear amplifiers that were being offered for sale via the mail or their web site (no booth indicated, so they may not have been exhibiting at the Hamvention this year).

This was a heavy-duty series of amplifiers, and they were designed for hefty usage.

Advertised Power output:

100 Watts Drive, 3.5 kW Output

400 Watts Drive, 7 kW Output

(The legal output power in Italy at present is 500 Watts)

I think the infamous "California Kilowatt" 2.5 – 3 kW and Henry 5K 5 kW output amplifiers of years past have been eclipsed!

— Ron Notarius WN3VAW

*(QSL Tips Continued from page 5)*

printing, covers bureau postage for the manager, covers other misc. costs and essentials for the DX. Ask the manager in question what he does with it, he'll tell you.)

- 7e1. New or old IRC? The new ones are huge (they won't fit into a #10 envelope with folding!) so I recommend not using them unless absolutely necessary. Again, some administrations no longer will accept the older "green" ones.
- 7e2. Don't use the (older still) brown "surface" IRC's. They were officially phased out years ago, and their redemption value to the post office(s) are minimal if anything. So what to do with them? Believe it or not... sell them to a collector on eBay for top dollar!
- 7f. If you're going to send a green stamp, try and get "fresh" ones from your local bank branch. Again, some foreign administrations or banks can be funny about that, they dislike handling older bills. If two GS's are needed, get a \$2 bill; same value, less bulk, less weight, and very rarely in circulation so they're almost always in good shape.
8. Learn some more patience.
9. If possible, try not to use commemorative stamps internationally. (Even though the current \$.60 & \$.80 air mail stamps are a little "flashy," they're also pretty common). Some of the envelopes stolen in transit are swiped for the stamps, especially the "rarer" domestic stamps sent domestically.
10. Reality is that there are some DX that either have most of their mail intercepted or are IRC/GS collectors. So don't be afraid to ask first. But don't be disappointed if some of these never come through, or if they reply years later through the bureau. Some have reasons; they might be good ones (which is no excuse, though). Some are just... what they are.
11. Learn yet more patience.
12. If I make a mistake on the QSL card I'm printing or writing, I destroy it and make a new one. Some people will mark it up and send it anyway. Most cards that are saved for awards purposes can't be used if they appear to be "altered" so they're not worth the bother.
13. Keep your log in UTC time (AND DATE) not local time. Today, 99%+ of all amateurs who QSL keep their logs in UTC (GMT to the old fashioned!). If the DX has to spend a lot of time looking for your call and confirming the data, you may go to the bottom of the pile or the "hospital" pile. It does no good to get your card in first if it has a problem causing the DX to deal with it last!
- 13a. Don't forget to keep the year straight come the first of January! Some DX understand, but others will be very strict. Wrong year = No QSL card!
14. Don't give up. Things happen. It took me 12 years, for example, but I finally tracked down and got my EL7X card -- the original request had been lost during civil disturbances, and it was a long time until I found that the amateur had escaped and was still alive AND still had his logs. Some Silent Key logs are lost, but others are put in a family member's or a QSL manager's hands and cards can still be obtained. ASK if in doubt.
15. Patience!

Some things that I know others do that I don't:

1. I have hardly ever bothered with the flimsy light-weight air mail envelopes. They made sense when air mail was weighed by the ½ ounce, but not by the ounce. And sometimes the cost of buying the envelopes and handling them is more than the cost of postage. Those who swear by them will no doubt disagree with me on that!
2. I also do not bother trying to buy foreign postage to send on an SASE. You pay a premium for it, and you may not always send the right amount or the right stamps (some countries use different stamps for domestic and international mail). Especially with the recent conversion to Euros in much of Western Europe, again it strikes me as more hassle than it's worth.
3. Some people have success with manila envelopes. I only use them for a particular QSL card I generate from my computer that won't quite fit a #10. Also, some people get odd sized envelopes from the card stores (usually leftovers after a big holiday). Nice idea — but they don't fit my printer.

## Silent Keys



Roger Lory K3TP, March 2002  
 Bob Denniston WØDX / VP2VI ex-WØNWX, Past ARRL & IARU  
 President & "Father" of modern DXpeditions, May 12<sup>th</sup>

# Radio Use Draws Suspicion

Jerry Beard KB3EAA courtesy of www.qrz.com

It was late winter in Newtown, a small community in Southeastern PA, close to the Delaware River. My wife and I were looking for each other, while doing some shopping on the main drag. I heard "KB3EAA, this is KB3GYO", on my VX5R. I turned as I replied, only to see her wave at me and smile. She was just 50 feet away, her blue dress suit silhouetting her against the brightly flowered storefront. I laughed and ran across the street to her, giving her a big hug and kiss.

Just then I heard an angry shout from the road. "WHAT ARE YOU DOING" the scowl faced policeman demanded. I looked over at him, still in his car, as he stared at our offending radios. "We are Ham radio operators", I replied respectfully, although publicly embarrassed by his accusatory tone. "WHY are you using them here" he then demanded. "We are HAM radio operators, and we are talking to each other", I replied. He looked peeved, as his shouts echoed off of the surrounding brick facades- "You're not from around here are you-- you have to expect to be questioned if you do that sort of thing around here. People don't know what you are doing". "We are HAM radio operators" I replied, "and THAT'S what we're doing"! He drove off, while my shocked wife and I stood staring.

I walked over to the Police station, hoping to find the Chief, and do a little educating. I was told that someone had found my wife and I to be suspicious, and notified the police of our radio "activity", thus the questioning. I said that the officer had acted improperly, by shouting at us that way in public, and that if his attitude was indeed warranted, then he could have also gotten out of his car to confront us. On the other hand, if we were not really suspicious, then why the embarrassing scene? The Chief was gone for the day, so I made a copy of my Ham license and R.A.C.E.S. id card, with a note bearing my phone number and a request that he give me a call, which he never did, even though I followed up by leaving him another message a week later.

Not too long after, I stopped a gas station, where an aged East Indian attendant commented on the ATAS-100 antenna on my car roof. He asked if I was with the government. I told him I was not, but that as HAM operator, and that I would use my equipment in defense of my country and government if need be, for this is a primary purpose of the Amateur Radio Service in this country. He told me that in his country, only the government would be allowed such things.

Now, I'm not up on the state of Amateur rules in India or Pakistan or wherever he was from, but the point is that this was how he was taught to think over there. Those who may communicate must be specially privileged, or part of the military. I reflected on the great privileges we as Americans enjoy, and felt a little self-conscious there with this humble man, who was willing to view me as an authority, simply because of my nice new car and roof rig.

I suppose I might have been able to educate the officer on the importance HAM radio in public service, had I actually expected to be questioned. I would have been ready, instead of offended. But the continued need to over-explain ones legal activity in order to forego further interrogation is not an indicator of progressive social development. The Gulag was stuffed full of good Russians who were eager to further explain their innocence. Problem was though, that they had ridden there on the wheels of their initial explanation. I have to ask also, why the police were unaware of the irreplaceable role that Amateur radio had played during 911, in a town only 1-hour drive south of NYC? At least the gas station attendant assumed we were legit.

Let's not let it happen here.



No, *Dietz's Restaurant* isn't that dreary, but somehow digital cameras don't always do well on backgrounds. The May Breakfast Gang photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

# K1B Baker Island Recap

Dr. Hrane Milosovic YT1AD via Nenad Stevanovic VE3EXY

Finally, "Home sweet home", after so much travel, climate changes, jet lag, and inevitable visit to Dayton Hamvention.

We are still very tired, we still struggle with jet lag, but all of this disappears after seeing what was written world wide about the K1B DXpedition, and what we experienced at Dayton Hamvention.

Here is the K1B DXpedition recap:

**Crew:** YT1AD, YU1DX, Z31FU/ZS6MG, Z32ZM, RZ3AA, RA3AUU, RW3AH, LY3UM, KW4DA, N6TQS, KD7RCD, S56A, and Mr. Doug Forsell, US FW officer.

**Costs:** US \$102,000

## Important Dates:

April 20: Meeting at LAX Airport, and taking exams at the airport.

April 22: Arrival to Fiji with team split into two groups. YT1AD, RZ3AA, RW3AH, RA3AUU, KW4DA, and KD7RCS went to Tuvalu by plane & operated. All others traveled by ship. The Tuvalu operator totals:

T25A (YT1AD) — 3600 QSO's	
T23A (RZ3AA) — 1400 QSO's	T2 Total
T26U (RA3AUU) — 1500 QSO's	7600 QSO's
T2DA (KW4DA) — 1100 QSO's	

April 25: Departure to Baker Island.

April 27: Arrival to Baker island at 05:00. USA camp assembled first. First QSO with JH1HDT. Other two camps assembled in next 48 hours.

## Equipment:

USA camp: generator 4,5kW, antennae: MA5B (14,18,21,24,28) Mosley 3 el short LP version 14,21, 28 MHz, 2 el @ 6 m bim, all @ 6-9 m., dipole 40/30 m rig's: IC 756 pro li x 2, IC 706 LPA 400 W

Serbian camp: generator 4,5 kW, antennae A3S (14,21 28 MHz) vertical Rv4c 7,14,21 28 MHz, dipole 10 MHz, vertical 3,5/3,8 MHz, 5 el 50 Mhz, @ 6 m. ground mount verticals with radials in the ocean. LPA ACOM 1000, AL 811 with ic 756 pro II, TS 570 s, and FT 100 (backup for 50 mhz)

Russian camp: generator 5,5 kW, antennae, MA5B 14,18,21,24,28 MHz, A3S 14,21,28 MHz, Battlecreek special (1,8, 3,5, 7) beams @ 6 i 9 metara. LPA ACOM 1000, AI 811 rigs: IC 756 pro II 2 x, FT920

IC-756 rigs were constantly turned on and did not experience any problem even at temperature well above 40c (100F).

ACOM 1000 was phenomenal, easy to tune on all bands (1.8-50 MHz).

Supressors were burnt on one of AL811, but were easily fixed.

Twice the 5.5 kW generator was broken, but fixed on spot.

The only incident we had was when on of 7 mtrs boats capsized over the huge wave, and injured Miki and Hrane. However both of us continued our operation, and the equipment carried by boat was recovered. Besides this incident, we did not have any problem, other than unbearable heath, and millions of crabs and birds. Mr. Forsell's advices in those situations were more than helpful. He was the USWF representative and without him we would not be even allowed to reach the island. Once again thanks to the USFW service in Honolulu, specially Mrs. Beth Flint!

The Baker Island operation came to an end on May 07<sup>th</sup> with the following QSO breakdown cw/ssb 89898 QSOs, 4708 RTTY QSOs, 446 PSK QSOs and 75 SSTV QSOs — total 95,127 QSO's

On our way back we stopped by on Fiji and made several thousand QSOs with the following breakdown:

3D2AD (YT1AD) — 640 QSO's	
3D2CW (KW4DA) — 720 QSO's	
3D2AF (RW3AH) — 1750 QSO's	3D2 Total
3D2UM (LY3NUM) — 2230 QSO's	6720 QSO's
3D2QS (N6TQS) — 150 QSO's	
3D2MG (ZS6MG) — 1230 QSO's	

Total number of QSOs in the K1B log is: 95.127 which is the all times record for an operation from an uninhabited island with no facilities, and powered by generators

Total QSO's for the entire expedition: 109,047

QSL cards for SSB operation go to RZ3AA, all others to YT1AD. (See also additional information in the DX column!)

(K1B Recap Continued on page 9)

# DX News Briefs

**K1B** kept the bands busy right up until the week prior to Dayton. The recap from YT1AD, the Dxpediton leader, is in the adjacent column. Nenad VE3EXY discussed concerns that had been raised about possible theft of cash donations to the two managers (RZ3AA for SSB QSO's, YT1AD for all others) with them at Dayton, and made the following announcement post-Hamvention: "From now till June 20<sup>th</sup>, I'll be collecting cash donations and hand them over to Hrane directly. Those who send QSLs with cash donations, will have the privilege to have their cards handed over as well. Make sure to supply SA(S)E, with sufficient postage (2 IRC's or \$2) in addition to your donation. You still need two SAEs: one for SSB and one for all other modes if you send cards with donations. If you provide e-mail, your donation will be confirmed via e-mail. Use multi QSO cards as much as you can. If you still want to contribute after June 20<sup>th</sup> please do so to Bill K6NDV (alias K6ND)." Note that QSL requests without donations and via the bureau will still be handled by the two managers — YT1AD, VE3EXY



The Limerick Radio Club **EJØA** trip to Inisheer Aran Islands (EU 006) set for the weekend May 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled at short notice. The Ferry was not able to sail due to 60 mph winds and 20 foot waves at the departing Pier. The Club hope to re-arrange this trip in a few weeks — E18EM.

The Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League announces its 7th DXpedition to **BQ9P** Pratas Island. They expect to be QRV from 0900 Z June 4<sup>th</sup> through 2300 June 12<sup>th</sup>. They plan to operate 5 stations on all bands, 6 meters to 160 meters. Note that there will be no on-line logs. WC7N and N6FF will be the pilot stations. QSL via KU9C — KU9C

KU9C will be vacationing at **WP2Z** from June 2nd through June 8th. He plans to operate digital modes, 6 meters and WARC bands as time permits. If you need USVI on a band for a new one, contact him at [ku9c@arrl.net](mailto:ku9c@arrl.net) — KU9C

Interested in a ham QTH with 7 towers on 2 acres, a world-class multi operator contest station, great weather, and a world famous view? The **KH7R** home and contest QTH (originally built by KH6XX) on the North Shore of Oahu is for sale. Visit <http://home.hawaii.rr.com/kh7r/> for more details — KH7R, KH7M

Not to be outdone, **W7ZR** has reduced the price on his Baja CA (Mexico) QTH on the beach. More information at [www.w7zr.com](http://www.w7zr.com) — W7ZR

QSL cards for **HH2PK** were received from the printer on May 28th. Cards began going in the mail immediately — N3SL

East Timor (**4W**) became an independent nation on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Concerns have been raised about the status of the current DXCC entity (UNAET). An email inquiry on this was sent to the DXCC desk. The reply indicated that there should be no change to the existing entity as a result of it's becoming independent, even if it is assigned a new ITU prefix. East Timor may be scarce in the near future as the existing operators, almost all UN personnel, are leaving along. There are no licensed local amateurs at present — WN3VAW, NC1L, CT1EEB

K5LBU will be heading to South Africa (**ZS**) and Swaziland (**3DAØ**) this July "for several weeks." — K5LBU / 3DAØCF

The May **7W4HI** expedition to Habbibas Island was cancelled when the military informed them on arrival in Algeria that they did not have permission to land or operate from the island regardless of their civilian PTT license. — OM3JW

## QSL Routes

<b>4J3M</b> via 4Z5LO — W9OL	<b>KG4IZ</b> via WA5PAE — PY7ZZ
<b>4T4X</b> via DL2RJM — W9OL	<b>LX5A</b> via LX1RQ — W8KNH
<b>5B4/AI5P</b> via AI5P — AI5P	<b>LZØA</b> via LZ1KDP — W8KNH
<b>5N7YZC</b> via WA1ECA — DL6ZFG	<b>M7W</b> via G3SCR — VE3EXY
<b>A22EW</b> via KB2MS — W9OL	<b>P3F</b> via 5B4AGN — VE3EXY
<b>A71MA</b> via KZ5RO — N2JTX	<b>PJ5JP</b> via K1BXE — W1JR
<b>BQ9P</b> via KU9C — KU9C	<b>R1MVI</b> via OH2BR — WØOXJ
<b>CO6XN</b> via HK6DOS — W8KNH	<b>TM5Y</b> via F4AJQ — PT7WA
<b>E44/JA8RUZ</b> via JA1UT — DL6ZFG	<b>TN3B</b> via EA3BT — EA3BT
<b>EK6TA</b> via DJØMCZ — W9OL	<b>TN3W</b> via EA3BT — EA3BT
<b>FY5FU</b> via F5PAC — W9OL	<b>UN7EG</b> via DL8KAC — W8KNH
<b>H7DX</b> via DL7CM — W9OL	<b>V31DJ</b> via W1LLU — W9OL
<b>HT4T</b> via T14SU — KU9C	<b>YMØKA</b> via TA1KA — Z36W
<b>JW9DL</b> via LA9DL — N5FPW	<b>ZS7/ZS4AGA</b> via ZS4A — ON4CAS

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) Yaesu FT-10 2-meter ht. Has the FULL keypad option, high-capacity battery, case and wall charger. Like new, with original box and manual. \$100
- (2) Alinco DRM03 FM-only 10-meter mobile rig. New in the box, never mobile. Has about 10 hours receive time on it, 1 hour xmit. Mint condition, with box and manual. \$ 75.00
- (3) Cushcraft R-5 10-12-15-17-20m HF Vertical Antenna. Used, but in excellent working condition. All traps are good, with low SWR on all bands. Can hear it play at my QTH. \$100

**Wanted To Buy:**

"Full-Sized" 440 Mhz HT, such as the HTX-404, IC-04AT, etc. Should be in reasonable shape, with manual. Will also consider a 440 MHz mobile unit. Looking for a good, dependable radio to run the I-Link gateway.

Contact Steve Lane W3SRL at [w3srl@yahoo.com](mailto:w3srl@yahoo.com) or (412) 341-1043.

**Wanted To Buy:** Small photocopier for use in the home. Paul Lusardi NØVLR (412) 688-2318 (day)

**For Sale:** Vertex VX-400U, no charger. Best offer.

**Wanted To Buy:** "Trip Mate" GPS Box. Reasonable price. Ben Williams KB3ERQ [rfhole@hotmail.com](mailto:rfhole@hotmail.com)



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[www.ecoquestintl.com/kfderose](http://www.ecoquestintl.com/kfderose)

# FCC News

ARRL Letter courtesy American Radio Relay League

*NEWINGTON, CT, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002* — At a well-attended FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention, the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, attempted to dispel the myth that the Commission is at the center of Amateur Radio. Nothing could be further from the truth," he said. The reality is that thousands of amateurs are voluntarily self-training "simply because you want to learn more about something that is of interest to you," he said.



Beyond enforcement, maintaining the licensee database and administering the rules, the FCC's role in Amateur Radio "is pretty minimal," Cross said.

Cross also discussed various Amateur Radio-related petitions now before the FCC as well as the recent NPRM proposing new LF and HF bands and making Amateur Radio primary at 2400-2402 MHz. He repeatedly made the point that the FCC prefers not to "micromanage" the rules, and he cautioned against asking for rule changes that could have unintended consequences.



**Bill Cross W4TN**  
 Photo Courtesy of and  
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 American Radio Relay League

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said Amateur Radio operators "have a lot to be proud of." Amateurs have the "only fail-safe system" of communication, he said. But, Hollingsworth said, there still are too many amateurs "who want to screw around" on the air. "To the extent that you tolerate these violations, you contribute to the decline of Amateur Radio," he said.

As he's done in the past, Hollingsworth also cautioned amateurs to be aware of how they might sound to others on the air. Paraphrasing the late radio journalist Edward R. Murrow,

Hollingsworth pointed out that just because you can be heard halfway around the world doesn't mean you're any smarter than when you could only be heard "down at the other end of the bar."

Behavior such as arguing and infighting on the air "will destroy Amateur Radio a lot faster than any specific rule violation or unidentified jammer on any band," Hollingsworth said. He asked rhetorically if getting in the last word in an on-air argument was "worth taking Amateur Radio one step closer to extinction." Even worse, he added, is that such behavior also distracts the FCC enforcement effort from more substantive situations, such as intruders on 10 meters.

"We're on the verge of great things," Hollingsworth concluded, urging amateurs to not take the naysayers and detractors within Amateur Radio seriously.



**Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH**  
 Photo Courtesy of and  
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 American Radio Relay League

## Field Day 2002 Preview: "Conference On the Mound?"



Discussing possible antenna locations (or maybe just deciding what to have for lunch) at the Field Day Site for antenna placement  
 (Left to Right): Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX's Back, Bob W3RWS.  
 Photo courtesy of &  
 ©Copyright 2002  
 Jacqué Gosselin  
 N3ZEL

Why were rooms at the Crowne Plaza Hotel scarce until right before Hamvention this year? It seems someone also scheduled the D-Day reunion was erroneously scheduled for the same weekend, and the organizers of the reunion did not release their block of rooms until early May. Impression is they won't make that mistake again!

— Pete Smith N4ZR

### (K1B Recap Continued from page 8)

There was a special box opened in Moscow for this purpose.

YT1AD address is Dr. Hrane Milosevic, 36206 Vitanovac, SERBIA-MONTENEGRO (Yugoslavia)!! QSL cards are expected from print shop mid June, and the first mailings around the first week of July.

Please do not send too many inquires about QSL. Please visit <http://www.kragujevac.co.yu/kh1> for more details including link to on-line logs.

Special thanks to pilot stations YU1AA, and VE3EXY, web masters 4N1FG and 4N1NM, and log master VA3NA. Great thanks to our biggest donors NCDXF 6000 USD, ARRL 1500 USD, ACOM Inc. America 4500 USD including logistics in Bostonu and LAX relevant to transport of equipment.

Also thanks to RZ3AA-12,500 USd, YT1AD-17,500 USD. Special thanks to ICOM America for borrowing us 6 x IC 756 pro II and HEIL sound for 6 borrowed head sets. Thanks to Princess II and its crew for helping us to put up three camps.

Most importantly, thanks to all of you who made 95K + QSOs with us, even those who made zoo on the bands. Thanks for the pleasure we had being part of this expedition.

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

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

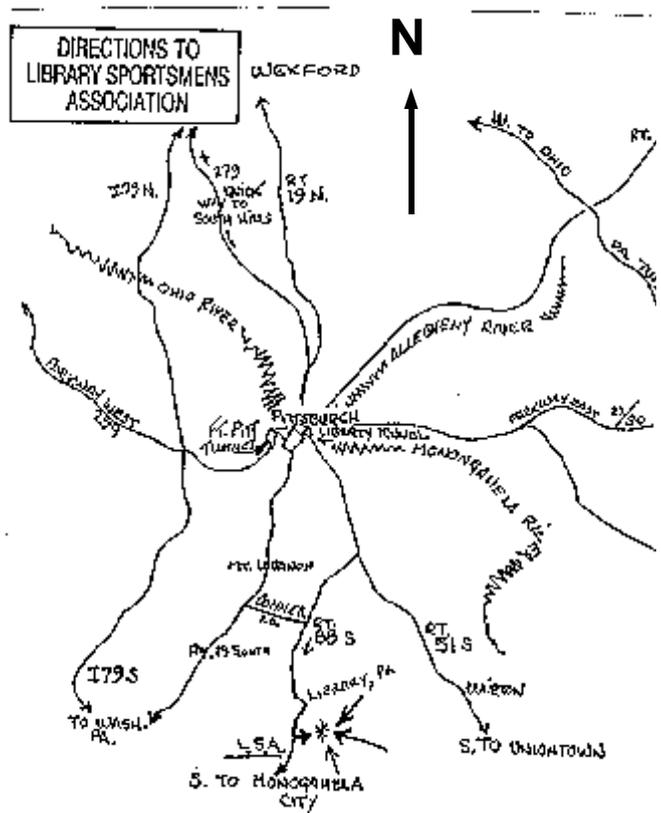
Make checks payable to Sharon Cox  
Mail to: The TLC Embroidery Company  
366 Dry Ridge Road  
West Alexander, PA 15376

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

## Inside This Issue:

- Ready for ARRL Field Day 2002? It's only a few weeks off!
- We've got a VHF Contest op coming up too!
- If you get this in time, don't forget the club picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest!
- Tips to help you get that DX QSL card!
- Loads of Pictures from Hamvention, Meetings, Breakfast, the FD site...

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



How to get to the Library Sportsmen's Association, location of WASH Field Day 2002. We'll also be listening on 146.955 and 443.650 for anyone needing directions or help finding the site! Map courtesy of Hank Marzina KB3FNM

## The WASHRag

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