



# WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 4 Issue 8

August 2002

N3SH  
WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills



The Fourth annual **WASH Picnic Meeting** will be held on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Steel City ARC W3KWH Clubhouse grounds starting at 1:00 PM. W3KWH is located at 208 McMichael Road in Collier Township, about 2 minutes from the Parkway West (directions below) and less than a mile from the East entrance to Settler's Cabin Park.

The club will be providing, hot dogs, burgers and corn on the cob. We need people to bring the following items:

- ◆ Soft drinks
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Ice in coolers!
- ◆ Watermelon & other fruit
- ◆ Side dishes (ie potato salad, beans, etc.)
- ◆ Pretzels, potato chips & misc. snacks
- ◆ Deserts

If you are going to be able to go, please call Carol KB3GMN at 412-884-1466 or email her at [n3sbf@libcom.com](mailto:n3sbf@libcom.com). Let her know how many are coming with you and what you are able to bring. She needs to have an idea by **August 8<sup>th</sup>** of about how many are coming. If you're not sure, let her know that too so that we have an idea of how many to expect.

The picnic/meeting, as always, is open to **WASH** club members, their families, and invited guests. Members of WACOM and the Uniontown ARC have been invited to join us at the WASH Picnic, as their clubs have invited our members to visit them during their picnics!

Our thanks to the Steel City ARC and it's members for giving us permission to hold our picnic at their clubhouse this year!

### Directions to the Steel City ARC W3KWH Clubhouse:

Take the Parkway West (US 22/30) westbound to the Campbell's Run Road exit (first exit west of Interstate 79). Exit at Campbell's Run Road.

At the end of the exit ramp, make a Left unto Campbell's Run Road.

Make the next Left turn onto McMichael Road. This is the road between the Exxon station and Bishop's Bar & Grill. Go under the Parkway, past the on ramp; the road will turn to the left at the top of the hill.

Proceed on McMichael Road approximately 1.5 miles. You will pass the East entrance to Settler's Cabin (on your right), and a small industrial office complex (on your left). You should be able to see the W3KWH antennas and a cell phone antenna tower ahead of you on the left side of the road.

Pass Mitchell Street & Burrell Drive on your left. Pass one more house on the left after Burrell Drive. You will see a double-wide driveway on the left; that is the entrance to W3KWH (Firestone Boulevard). There should also be a Telephone Pole with a street light and a yellow sign pointing up the hill.

Make a left turn and follow Firestone Boulevard to the top of the hill. You're there!

**Special Note:** Talk-in will be on 146.955 & 443.650 MHz, **Not** 147.030 MHz

## Next Picnic/Meeting: August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, at the **Steel City ARC W3KWH Clubhouse**, 208 McMichael Road, Carnegie (Collier Township), starting at 1:00 PM.

This is our annual Picnic Meeting! No guest speakers scheduled, but bring the family along for a fun time!

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

## 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Pa QSO Party Less Than 3 Months Off — Will You Be Part of It?

October may seem a long way off at the beginning of August, but mid-October is now less than 3 months away, and that means that the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party will be on us soon.

The Pa QSO Party is one of, if not the, largest State QSO Parties in the country. During the course of the weekend, home, portable and mobile stations will activate at one time or another every one of the 67 Counties in PA. Ever wonder what it's like to be a Rare DX station? Go to a lightly populated county as a portable during the contest and you'll know!

Want to operate just QRP, or just CW, or just set up portable somewhere with a 100 Watts, a wire & a card table? Then the Pa QSO Party has something for you. Complete rules for the party will be in the next two newsletters.

**WASH** is currently making our plans for our excursions in the contest. Plans are to once again activate N3SH with a multi-op crew from the Clarion County cabin of N3SBF and KB3GMN. There has also been interest in activating WA3SH from W3WH's home in Washington County, this year as a QRP entry. N3ZNI and KB3GOT are planning to run around Western PA mobile. And that's just what we know of so far — there are a lot of club members still making up their minds on what they plan to do this year.

Pa QSO is a heck of a lot of fun. Join in & get involved! Operators are needed for the club stations (no experience necessary), and many of the portable and mobile operations that are being considered can use a hand setting up antennas, logging, or driving. You don't even have to be a club member to join in and have some fun with us (though we'll ask you to consider it!)

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

LOOKING  
AHEAD:

- **ARRL WPA Section Convention & Butler Co. ARA Hamfest, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

- **Foothills ARC Train Show, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> (tentative)**

- **Pennsylvania QSO Party, October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**

- **WASHFest 2003, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003**

# August 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <b>WACOM Picnic</b> RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	2 Eico ARS Meeting	3 <b>ARRL UHF Contest</b> Juniata Valley ARC Hamfest RA Erie VE Test Beaver Valley ARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
4 <b>ARRL UHF Contest</b> Ellwood City ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South 1 ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	5 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver County PS Net	6 SHBP&M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVFHS Swap'nShop Net	7 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co Skywarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	8 <b>NO WASH Meeting</b> Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	9	10 North Hills ARC VE Test Butler Co ARA VE Test Tri-County CW ARC VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
11 <b>WASH Picnic</b> QCWA Pittsburgh Net South 1 ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	12 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL of Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver County PS Net	13 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawey AARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVFHS Swap'nShop Net	14 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	15 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene County ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	16 No 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad County ARC Meeting	17 <b>2 Rivers ARC Club Family Picnic</b> Foothills ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
18 Elk County ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South 1 ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	19 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver County PS Net	20 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVFHS Swap'nShop Net	21 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co Skywarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	22 Uniontown ARC Net	23	24 Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
25 <b>Skyview Hamfest</b> QCWA Pittsburgh Net South 1 ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	26 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver County PS Net	27 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVFHS Swap'nShop Net	28 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co Skywarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	29 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	30	31 <b>WASH Breakfast</b> <b>W3PIE Gabfest</b> 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

**"The WASHRag™"** (formerly **"The Mariner™"**) is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 October 17<sup>th</sup>!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, October 17<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, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
 Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
 Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
 Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003

The **WASH Breakfast Gang** met in full force on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at **Dietz's Restaurant**. Present were KB3CPI, K3VX, N3SBF, W3RWS, W3VFA, KB3FNM, KB3GOT & Rebecca, N3ZEL, N3ZNI, NØPEU, W3WH and WN3VAW. We admired some of Tippi WA3JPP's photos from the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, talked about picnic plans, discussed the Pa QSO Party planning (anyone want to rent an RV and go mobiling in style?), the VE test results and even talked about things as esoteric as National Moon the Train Day (don't ask!) — and that was just at one half of the table! The next Club Breakfast will be Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads. Come down & share a cup of coffee & a good time with us!

The **Fifth of July** brought about an impromptu meeting of the WASH Antenna Committee over at Shawn NØPEU's home. K3VX, W3WH, N3ZEL and N3ZNI converged on his apartment and help him set up and tweak a G5RV antenna. Shawn's been happily QRV on HF with his FT-817, and HF DX has yet to recover from the surprise! By the way, Shawn HAS promised to work any club members on HF who want to make a schedule with him, if we can ever catch up to him...



The **Uniontown ARC W3PIE** had their annual club picnic, open to all amateurs, on Sunday, July 21st at Wharton Township Park. Representing WASH there were W3WH & Linda, N3SBF, KB3GMN, N3ZNI and N3ZEL. All report that they had a great time and enjoyed the UARC club's hospitality! Naturally, the W3PIE crew are just as welcome at our picnic on August 11<sup>th</sup>, so if you run into one of them, make sure they know! And thanks to the entire UARC group for their hospitality.

The **WACOM 2002 Club Picnic** is scheduled for Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, at the South Strabane Fire Hall #1 (aka Pancake FD), and they have also invited any WASH member who would like to join them to come! Please contact Jacqué N3ZEL for more information or directions. We are also extending the same invitation to WACOM members to join us on the 11<sup>th</sup> at our picnic. Gee, between us, SCARC members who stop by the clubhouse, UARC & WACOM members, we ought to have a real fun time at our picnic!

**Congratulations** to former Club member Corky N3MJP. We learned at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix that Corky is engaged! The bad news is that she lives East of Corky's new "home base" in Greensburg, so we'll be seeing even less of him in the area for the foreseeable future.

**Picnic at Butler?** We've had some very successful club picnic's the last four years at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest in June. We've also had some smaller but equally successful picnic's at the Butler Hamfest in September, but last year due to scheduling conflicts, we didn't have one. Anyone up to helping to organizing one for this September? Please contact WN3VAW if interested.

**Keep in your thoughts:** The wife of John Marshall N3RVI, a friend of the club who has helped out at many VE sessions, is at present recovering from surgery performed the week of July 14<sup>th</sup>. Our thoughts and prayers are with them along with hopes for a speedy recovery — info courtesy N3RDV

**Under the knife:** Bob W3RJM is going to be spending some time at home starting in August as he will be recuperating from elective surgery. Keep a listen for him on the repeater so that he doesn't start getting lonely for work!

Also, Shirley KB3GMP will be undergoing some elective surgery and will not be very active with the club while she is recuperating.

Please keep both of them in your thoughts for a speedy recovery .

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

**September 12<sup>th</sup>:** Presentation on the Pennsylvania QSO Party by Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX, Ron WN3VAW & others  
**TBA:** Tom Dandrea N3EQF, EQF Software

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

We had four candidates at our July 18<sup>th</sup> VEC test session, held at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church in Bethel Park. Two of the candidates successfully earned new licenses, the other two successfully earned upgrades!

According to the FCC ULS database, the following licenses were issued in late July:

Technician: Christopher Beyer KB3IJX  
 Michael Morrow Jr. KB3IJY  
 General: Michael Aquilina II KB3HFP  
 Jacqueline Sanford N3ZCG

WASH VE Team:  
 John Benitez KE3XB  
 Jeff Farrar W3JAF  
 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL  
 Bob Ketzell KB3IN  
 Ron Notarius WN3VAW  
 Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI

Also present, but unable to participate [as per FCC R&R §97.509 (d)], were WASH VE's Bob Sanford AA3FI and Bryan Beyer K3OL

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

Left: A very proud & pleased Bryan K3OL observes as Ed N3ZNI hands Christopher Beyer (now KB3IJX) his

Technician CSCE. Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Full meeting minutes from the controversial ARRL Director's 2002 Second Meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> (see related stories on page 5) are now available on the ARRLWeb page, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) Minutes 34 & 35 detail the Section News and Contest Line Scores discussion and votes



# Minutes, July 11<sup>th</sup>

Paul Lusardi N VLR, President, WASH

Meeting was called to order at 19:05 hours by NØVLR. There were 20 members and 3 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 June meeting as published in the newsletter was made by W3RJM and seconded by W3WH and carried.

## Committee Reports:

**Treasurer (N3RDV):** Read and accepted.

**Secretary (NØVLR for KB3FZU):** Interesting article in Boston paper on Ham radio activity

**VE Report (N3ZEL)** reports July 18<sup>th</sup>, 3-4 VE's needed.

**Repeaters (W3SRL /N3RNK):** reports I-link back on - give it a try, all is well with 146.955.

**FM Net Report:**(N3HKQ): reports: Need operators for net control, W3WH for next week.

**Activities (W3WH):** Field Day – 3900 points but a recount is in order.

**Public Service(N3RDV)** PVGP July 20,21, marathon coming up in August.

**Contests (W3WH/NØVLR):** PA QSO party – October, Clarion, mobiles and local efforts discussed

**Newsletter(WN3VAW):** no report

**Old Business:** Congrats to Michael, KB3HFP for being pictured in World Radio.

**New Business:** Clear speech speaker raffle, tickets \$2.00 (see article Page 6)

Diane Robb, 911 Supervisor offered a tour of WASH co 911 center

August 11<sup>th</sup> is WASH picnic. It will be held at the Steel City ARC clubhouse.

Motion for \$200 allocated for food/picnic items by W3SRL, carried by W3RWS

**Good of the order:** N3RDV – SWPA Packet Group meets at Blue Flame restaurant Saturday.

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by W3WH and seconded by KB3GMN and carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:10

**I was recently appointed DEC for the WPA Rapid Response team. I have been unable to find out who was on the previous team, and am working to rebuild the team from scratch. For this, I need your help.**

**I need volunteers for the Rapid Response Team from all across the Western PA section. Anyone interested in joining, please contact me as soon as possible. If there is any who were on the team before and would consider staying on, I'd like to hear from you. I need your contact information and what kind of equipment you have available. This is an important effort for the WPA Section, and we need volunteers badly. THANK YOU!**

— Paul Oliastro N3ZZI (724) 846-4685

n3zzi@arrl.net, marian@fyi.net, ecara@qsl.net

**Congratulations to the following amateurs, new officers of the Breezeshooters elected at their Annual Picnic on July 28<sup>th</sup>:**

**President:** Jack Stoner WA3FTS  
**Vice-President:** Bob Benna N3LWP  
**Treasurer:** Bill Kristoff N3BPB  
**Checker:** Mark Holzbach KB3FYT  
**Directors 2002-04:** Dick Barton AA3TG  
 Rachael Herbinko AA3XU  
 Harry Hankle WB3LBX

# WASH Spotlight: Who Is that Masked Man?



At an event at a Covered Bridge in Marianna, PA, back in June, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL took these pictures of a member of the Washington County Buckskinners doing a re-enactment for the local historical society.

Sometimes we forget that Amateur Radio isn't the only interest that many of our club members have! Caught on historically inaccurate cameras:

Bill Keifner N3XFE (eat your heart out, Mel Gibson!)

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Every month we're going to try and feature a different WASH club member and/or something about them in the WASH Spotlight. Submissions for the WASH Spotlight should be submitted to WN3VAW.

## Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, August 31<sup>st</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	KB3FQT	NØVLR	N3UE	W3RJM
AA3JS	KB3FZU	NØWPV	N3UIW	W3RWS
K3BZW	KB3GMN	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3SRL
K3LIE	KB3GMO	N3BSQ	N3WPT	W3VE
K3OL	KB3GMP	N3CCC	N3XFE	W3VFA
K3VX	KB3GMU	N3CZZ	N3XI	W3WH
K3WR	KB3GOT	N3FZ	N3YPB	W4ZE
K9LZ	KB3GZG	N3HKQ	N3YQG	WA3JPP
KA3PPH	KB3HFP	N3IDH	N3ZCG	WB3BPH
KA3TFB	KB3HVN	N3INT	N3ZEG	WB3GTL
KA3TWI	KB3IAC	N3KFD	N3ZEH	WN3BOJ
KA3UPY	KB3QX	N3MJQ	N3ZEL	WN3VAW
KA3WZO	KC2JJB	N3QMV	N3ZNI	Barbara Misic
KA3YTS	KD3JV	N3RDV	N4MIS	
KB3ANH	KE3XB	N3RHT	N8DPV	K3EED (SK)
KB3CPI	KE7FD	N3RNK	NP2JF	N3KEH (SK)
KB3DCO	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3GEL	N3OBD (SK)
KB3ENX	KQ3DX	N3SRC	W3HND	N3SKR (SK)
KB3EPI	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3JAF	W3ZLK (SK)
KB3ERQ				
KB3FGO				
KB3FNM				

Through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

## ARRL "Section News," Contest Line Scores, Moving from QST to the Web

ue

Starting next January, "Section News" and contest line score results will appear on the ARRL Web site rather than in QST. Meeting July 19<sup>th</sup>—20<sup>th</sup> in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors voted 9-6 to approve a resolution formally relocating "Section News" to the ARRL Web site.

"Section News" has appeared in the League's official journal at least since 1919. The "Section News" Web sites — already in place--will provide the officials of each ARRL section "the capability of an up-to-date information resource that can be tailored to the needs of their section," the resolution said.

The space freed up by relocating "Section News" will allow more in-depth coverage of general news, public service activities and "how-to" articles aimed at involving more amateurs in emergency preparedness. Members unable to use the Web can request their section's reports in hard-copy format.

The Board resolution noted that the past six months had given members the opportunity to understand the reasons for relocating "Section News," to discuss alternatives and to better understand and see the advantages of the expanded content available on the Web site.

Voting for the change were Directors Dick Isely, W9GIG (Central); Jay Bellows, K0QB (Dakota); Frank Fallon, N2FF (Hudson); Wade Walstrom, W0EJ (Midwest); Tom Frenaye, K1KI (New England); Dennis Bodson, W4PWF (Roanoke); Walt Stinson, W0CP (Rocky Mountain); Art Goddard, W6XD (Southwestern); and Coy Day, N5OK (West Gulf).

Directors **Bernie Fuller, N3EFN (Atlantic)**; Rick Roderick, K5UR (Delta); George Race, WB8BGY (Great Lakes); Greg Milnes, W7OZ (Northwestern); Jim Maxwell, W6CF (Pacific); and Frank Butler, W4RH (Southeastern), voted against the change.

In a separate resolution approved by voice vote, the Board agreed that the ARRL Web site now provides a better medium to report the results of ARRL-sponsored contests, and line scores no longer will appear in QST. The change does not affect ARRL Field Day results, which will continue to be published in the magazine.

A Web site established earlier this year now includes, among other features, a searchable database of contest line scores for members and the ability to easily analyze individual and club scores. There's also an on-line Soapbox to post comments and photos immediately after a contest, as well as an expanded narrative for each event. The ARRL also now offers members the free Contest Rate Sheet newsletter, which focuses specifically on contesting.

## 2002 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix was held the weekend of July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Pittsburgh's Schenley Park under almost ideal (just a little too hot!) conditions. Over 80 Amateur Radio Operators from South Western PA, Ohio, West Virginia and vicinity participated in providing race communications between the corner flag workers and race control, and ATV links from two critical corners (including the hay-bale chicane) so that race control always knew exactly what was going on at any point on the 2.33 mile course.

No major disasters happened this year, although there were the usual amount of hit curbs, busted hay bales, broken wheels, and overtaxed engines on the vintage and antique cars being run all weekend — and Corners 9 & 11 (over around the George Westinghouse fountain & pond) had a lot of broken plastic water-filled barriers after being hit by race cars (which means they did their job well). Oh, if anyone would like a souvenir piece of fiberglass off of the nose of Marc Evan's winning 1959 Lotus 18 Formula Junior #44, please contact WN3VAW, as he has a few left... well, just remember the motto of the vintage race car drivers & owners: if you can't afford to replace it, don't race it!

One pleasant surprise this year is that one of the drivers, Richard Jubanyik of Voorhees, NJ, owner of 1959 MGA Coupe #760, is also KC2GSR and personally thanked all of the Amateur Radio volunteers over the net on Saturday on behalf of all of the PVGP drivers, owners, and other volunteers for our time & effort with the event all weekend.

The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** was well represented at this year's PVGP. Current or former club members who participated in the event include N3MJP, K3BZW, WN3BOJ, K3OL, K9LZ, N3VVL, N2QIV, N3ZEO, K3VX, WA3JPP, N3RDV and WN3VAW.

## Moving Onward

Chuck Reville K3FT courtesy of the cq-contest reflector

The ARRL has acted in the matter of Section and Contest matters. Therefore, reality is what it is. Let us accept it and move onward.

For myself, the question NOW is: HOW do we as active/interested (dare I say "addicted") contest types get others interested in what we do? Let me offer a short hand saying "Each One — Win One!" (This applies to ANYTHING — not just contesting. Think outside the 9-dots!)

Every one of us has friends who are hams or know about what we do but don't contest or even know what it really is. They MAY know about the overview. They MAY know you as the guy who spends his weekends behind the radio chasing contacts. BUT...

Do they KNOW what it is that you like about it? Do they KNOW what it is about contesting that lights your fuse and makes you expend the hours/dollars in pursuit of the goals? Do they KNOW how contesting can benefit THEM in their amateur radio pursuits — be it emergency communications, public service, enjoying ragchewing on the HF bands, chasing DX, learning to become a skilled operator?

If you visit a Club, talk about the SIZZLE of contesting, not the boring (to others) stuff. Sell the buzz... the sizzle. WHAT turns YOU on about it? Dangle some bait. Your passion and enthusiasm will come out and you will attract folks.

Take those who rise to the "bait" and offer to show them more. Have avenues for them to take while the interest is there. STRIKE while they are interested. Don't delay for "some good time when things are better."

Treat it like big-game fishing. If you have an eyeball with someone, lay some "bait" out and see if they nibble. Not all will bite, but if you get one out of ten... and that person gets into it and gets one out of ten... Well, you see the progression!

Regardless; work on getting just one person interested in coming to see. If 10% of the active contesters did this, we'd have a sizable increase. Success begets success.

That's how I got introduced to contesting. I'm an average type ham when it comes to things — interested but need someone to help me see the "zing" and excite me to want to come and see. I had been exposed to contesting but NEVER really had a clue about what it was all about save some vague knowledge about a group of guys who tried to work a lot of people and make a big score. Then, one day while talking with a buddy who was into contesting about it, he made the offer to "come and see." I liked the "sizzle" that he told me about so I figured it would be fun to go see what was what. He introduced me to the owner of a contest-oriented station who opened the doors so I could "come and see and hear and experience." They gave me the chance to try it out "just to see if I'd like it" without pushing me or talking over/down to me. In other words: they showed me what they liked to do and let me taste a bit of it.

Did it work? Ask W3PP & WR3L. Check the contest results in *QST* & *CQ* since 1997 for W3PP/WR3L/K3FT. Results speak the answer to that question! <grin> The resources are out there. The Contest groups are there.

Onward!



camera at the end of the day. Photo taken by Roy Kennedy, courtesy of & 2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW



## Hollow State Ramblings : Silvertone 5656A

Don Merz N3RHT

Well, long time no type. I think I have seen many of you at the hamfests lately. I am always so busy shopping for GEAR that I don't look at PEOPLE when I should. So if you saw me and I didn't see you, please excuse me—bad social skills (but I'm working on them). I will be at Skyview and Butler so please poke me in the ribs and say hi if you see me.

I missed the first half of this year as my Mom became seriously ill and passed away in March. Between the hospitals before and the lawyers after, I have not had much time for radios. Then spring came and all the things that needed done around the house started calling my name. I told my wife that they had me mistaken for someone else. But she didn't think that was very funny.

Before Mom died, I had a chance to restore a Silvertone 5656A receiver that I had purchased on eBay last year. The Silvertone is a rare receiver and may have been the only ham receiver ever offered by "World's Largest Store"—as Sears was then billing itself. But since it wasn't made by Collins, I was able to get it for less than \$200 including shipping. Here is a picture:



I was lucky to find it all original except for one unoriginal hole next to the logo on the front panel. And the black wrinkle paint was in pretty good shape too. This radio was made in 1936 and covers 550kc to 18mc in 3 bands. It has a huge 8" circular dial on the left and a fine-sounding 8" speaker on the right. The dial has a neat bezel and convex dial glass.

The radio's bandspread is mechanical and tuning works like a clock--the "second hand" is your

bandspread and the combined "minute/hour hand" shows where you are in the band. The BFO is built around a metal 6C5 tube. Variable selectivity is provided by an iron-core coil linkage assembly that allows the core to be moved in and out of the coil. It has a 465kc IF and both IF and RF amps use 6K7 metal tubes. The local oscillator is a glass 6C5 tube that is enclosed in a 4-piece metal shield that looks like a coffin. The shield connects to a grounded pin on the base of the tube. The schematic refers to the mixer as a "translator" and the mixer tube is a 6L7 metal type. Detector duties and AVC chores are handled by a 6Q7 metal tube and AF output is provided by a single 6F6. The speaker is a Jensen 8" type with an 1800 ohm field winding.

The set must have had a melt down at some point and a service man has replaced parts of a 6-section voltage divider (an ugly tapped-resistor thing) and the power transformer. He also replaced most of the capacitors. Unfortunately, he did this all in a very haywire fashion and it was quite a mess with long leads soldered to other long leads, electricians-taped joints and so forth. I re-capped the set completely with mylars and rationalized all the wiring. It rewarded my effort by coming right up and playing beautifully.

The unoriginal 3/8" hole in the front panel is a problem. I filled it using the epoxy method (epoxy a small piece of metal behind the hole and fill the hole with epoxy. Then match the paint.). I thought that it also only had 4 of its original knobs and I was going to have castings made to replace the missing ones. But then I realized that all the knobs were original—they just don't look right on the set. But I have seen photos of this set that shows that the knobs are correct.

Note that the restoration I did was the lazy-man's version. I did not check resistor values and did not replace caps in the coil cans (because you practically have to dismantle the entire set to get the cans off!). As a result, the radio's AVC does not seem to work well and band 2 is decidedly not performing as well as bands 1 and 3. Luckily, I am not a perfectionist and I am happy with the radio as it is. Time for a beer...

**Books to Buy:** There are two indispensable references for boatanchor collectors: Raymond Moore's Transmitters and Receivers, respectively. Both make an excellent attempt to cover a very big field. The latest editions have much better photos than the earlier ones did. If you want to know what you are looking at or for at a hamfest or on eBay, these books should become your friends.

Magazines are also great references! The Moore books above only cover tube type transmitters and receivers designed for ham use. Solid state radios are left out. So are SWL receivers (no BFO). And worst of all, transceivers are not covered in the Moore books.

So how do you fill in the gaps? Well, here's one idea: As you are hamfesting this year, keep your eyes open for the following issues of **73 MAGAZINE**. These are valuable references for anyone who shops for boatanchors in any of Moore's missing categories.

5/62: The WØHKF Receiver Anthology listing (no photos) of all ham receivers made since 1930 with year introduced and the introductory price.

3/63: Receiver Buying Guide NOT JUST FOR 1963 — this review tries to cover all popular ham receivers ever made. With photos, specs, years of production, original list price and 1963 used price. This is a must-own reference.

4/63: First HF SSB Transceiver special issue. Nice.

10/63: Wayne Green's Annual Buyers Guide covering only gear that was available at that time. Descriptions and photos everywhere. Great coverage of everything you can think of. Excellent!

4/65: The second 73 HF SSB Transceiver special issue. Big, crisp photos, specs and descriptions.

4/67: Review of HF SSB Receivers, Transmitters and Transceivers. Specs, descriptions, photos, the works. Excellent.

12/68: Transceiver Review Issue with photos: SB-101 through KWM-2 and everything in between.

12/69: 1970 Amateur Radio Buyers Guide. Short descriptions but great photos. Nice coverage of accessories.

4/71: The FM Marketplace. All the early FM VHF mobile and HT gear is pictured and described...back in the days when Japanese manufacturers didn't dare put their own names on the rigs.

Quote that helps me justify accumulating "old junk": *"If you can preserve a bit of history, you ought to do it. Each is a note in the great symphony of mankind and, once lost, diminishes that music forever."*

-- Winston Churchill

73 until next month when I will tell you a sad tale (for me) of the big one that got away.

## ClearSpeech™ Speaker Raffle

The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** is raffling off an Am-Com ClearSpeech™ Speaker as a club fund-raiser this summer.

The ClearSpeech™ Speaker is a digital speaker that removes up to 95% of the background noise from the receive side of any two-way radio communication. The most common complaint about mobile communications is background noise.



The ClearSpeech™ Speaker is a high-tech, low cost solution that enhances the audio quality of car and truck fleet, emergency vehicle, marine, and amateur radio communications.

The ClearSpeech™ Speaker:

- ◆ Improves clarity and intelligibility of communications
  - ◆ Lets you listen with less fatigue and greater concentration
  - ◆ Is easy to use. It activates automatically when connected to your mobile or base radio and a 12 volt power supply.
  - ◆ Is easy to install. It mounts like a standard loud speaker.
  - ◆ Provides continuous and adaptive removal of background noise from the received signal.
  - ◆ And improves the signal-to-noise ratio.
  - ◆ Noise cancellation characteristics: 250 - 3,400 Hz voice bandwidth, Single tone noise reduction ->50dB White noise reduction ->12dB
- More information on the ClearSpeech™ Speaker can be found at the Am-Com web site, [www.amcominc.com](http://www.amcominc.com), or call 888-803-2853.

**Raffle Tickets:** Each "strip" ticket contains 5 numbers and costs \$2 each. The winning number will be determined by the Pennsylvania Lottery Daily Number on Labor Day, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets will be available at club meetings and other club events, or can be obtained from Ways & Means Committee Chairman Carol Danko KB3GMN at 412-884-1466.

Please note that because we do not know in advance what numbers are on the "strip" tickets, it is the responsibility of the holder of the winning ticket to contact Carol after Labor Day to collect the speaker. If the speaker remains unclaimed by the November 2002 meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION**, it will be given away by random drawing of those present at that meeting.

You need not be a member of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION** to participate.

## Tech "Support" At It's Finest

Bob Sanford AA3FI

I decided that after taking 4 years off from playing radio I'd get back into the hobby. I have been reading W9KNI's book "The Complete DX'er", and his number one rule is you have to learn how to zero beat on another ham's CW signal. Since I have absolutely NO idea how to properly operate CW on my ICOM IC-756, I thought I'd ask ICOM Tech Support for guidance. Either it's a secret, or this lady is just plain ignorant in trying to help out. They aren't very helpful to a "new" ham.

From: Robert Sanford  
Posted At: Monday, July 22, 2002 5:00 AM  
Subject: IC-756

Hi, Could you please explain how to zero beat tune the IC-756 when using CW?  
Tnx & 73, Bob, AA3FI

From: Dene Hager On Behalf Of Amateur Tech Support  
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2002 2:18 PM  
To: Robert Sanford  
Subject: RE: IC-756

Could you please clarify your question?  
Ms. Dene Hager, Technical Service Representative, ICOM America, Inc.

From: Robert Sanford  
Posted At: Monday, July 22, 2002 3:29 PM  
Subject: RE: IC-756

What is the recommended method to tune your transmitter frequency to exactly match that of the received CW signal? In previous radio's you would tune to a zero-beat to match the frequency you were receiving.  
Tnx ... Bob

From: Dene Hager On Behalf Of Amateur Tech Support  
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2002 7:27 PM  
To: Robert Sanford  
Subject: RE: IC-756

Find out the other station's center frequency and tune to that. The newer radios do not do zero beat.  
Ms. Dene Hager, Technical Service Representative, ICOM America, Inc.

From: Robert Sanford  
Posted At: Monday, July 22, 2002 4:33 PM  
Subject: RE: IC-756

Bingo!  
That is my question! How do you determine the other stations' center frequency

From: Dene Hager On Behalf Of Amateur Tech Support  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2002 1:38 PM  
To: Robert Sanford  
Subject: RE: IC-756

I have conferred with other technicians on this question and they recommend tuning the station until the signal sounds best.

Ms. Dene Hager, Technical Service Representative, ICOM America, Inc.

From: Robert Sanford  
Posted At: Tuesday, July 23, 2002 11:45 AM  
Subject: RE: IC-756

Thank you for your response.

To insure setting your transmit frequency to exactly that of the received CW station, how would one define "sounds best"? Is there not a method utilizing the IC-756 series to determine when your frequency will match that of the other station?

Tnx ...

From: Dene Hager On Behalf Of Amateur Tech Support  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2002 3:12 PM  
To: Robert Sanford  
Subject: RE: IC-756

As per previous emails, there is nothing further to elaborate on. There is no Beat Frequency Oscillator.

Ms. Dene Hager Technical Service Representative, ICOM America, Inc.

**Skyview Radio Society Hamfest, Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, at the K3MJW club house on Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington. For more information, call Bob Livrone N3WAV at 724-339-9607 n3wav@arrl.net**

## The Mechanics & Psychology of Negative Reviews

Brian Haren W8BYH via the Ten-Tec Reflector

Over the last two months I've experienced problems seemingly related to my Ten-Tec Jupiter that have opened my eyes to the mechanics and psychology of negative reviews, not just for the Jupiter, but any radio. Why bring the issue up? Simple. This experience has taught me the value of proper troubleshooting, Elmering, and biting one's tongue.

In April I purchased a new Jupiter. Within two weeks of receiving it a transistor in the finals failed and the radio had to go back to Ten-Tec for repair. Ten-Tec did a fine job of explaining to me what the problem was, and the fact that early component failure is an infrequent, but not uncommon, occurrence in all electronics manufacturing. Regardless, I was steamed. A brand new radio had failed and I had to ship it back for repair. A number of Elmers on the Ten-Tec Reflector site helped me understand that what Ten-Tec had told me was true, what I had experienced was uncommon, and that Ten-Tec would treat me fairly. Ten-Tec received the radio on a Thursday, had it on the bench that afternoon and on it's way back to me the next day. UPS had possession of it longer than Ten-Tec did.

All went smoothly until Field Day. A number of friends were eager to 'play' with the Jupiter so I agreed to set it up as part of our contest station (if you worked WI4R on CW during FD, it was my Jupiter). After bringing the radio home from FD and installing it back in my shack new problems began to pop up.

First, the receive audio was badly distorted and the radio would lock in transmit. Again, I cursed the radio and suspected that another 'piece' of the Jupiter had gone south during FD operations. I immediately emailed Paul at Ten-Tec and put out a call to my local Elmers. To a man, they said "RF is getting back into the radio". Paul outlined a quick, simple test, and a local Elmer who is also an EE chastised me, "Think it through, and work to isolate the problem!" Well, the test Paul outlined proved that the problem was not with the radio. A careful check of the rats nest of cables in my shack turned up the culprit - a bad coax jumper. Everything was working fine again, but I had been ready to blame the radio, Ten-Tec, faulty manufacturing, bad components — everything except my own inability to properly solder connectors.

Last week a new problem surfaced. Once again the Jupiter began behaving oddly. On transmit the radio display would blank out and the radio would lock up. Once again my knee jerk reaction was to blame the radio. However, I calmed down and worked to isolate the problem. Long story short, it was a power issue. Hooking the Jupiter directly to the power supply instead of through a distribution panel eliminated the problem.

See the pattern here? It's "experience a problem, immediately blame the radio." It's a macho thing. "Hey, I'm a big, bad, licensed ham radio operator. It can't possibly be my fault!" I detect this undertone running through a number of negative eHam reviews of not just the Jupiter, but a number of other radios. Do you wonder what's going on when a guy writes, "The radio went back to Ten-Tec and they checked it out and said nothing's wrong. But when I get it back in my shack the problem's still there! Ten-Tec can't build (or diagnose, or design) a decent radio. I've been a ham for (insert your favorite two digit number here) years, and I know it's the radio and not my installation!"

I felt exactly the same way and was proven wrong twice. So, thank you Ten-Tec for building a great radio and holding my hand while I muddled my way through the problems, and thanks to my local Elmers who offered support without judgement.

I will never again view negative reviews in the same light. Based on my own experiences, they will always be a little suspect.

**A word of advice to all my ham friends: Backup! Backup! Backup! I know, that's three words, but it bears repeating and cannot be done often enough.**

**One evening I was entering contacts into my log in the computer when the program started locking up. The only way to unlock was to close down and reopen the program. However, three months worth of contacts had disappeared. Gone!**

**Nowhere in the computer anywhere. Simple, just restore the files from backup. Except that I'd last backed up my log three months before! All those contacts were gone! I was able to recreate some of them from QSL cards I'd received, others from notes I'd made on the tablet by the radio, but the upshot was that about 90 contacts were lost forever. So remember to do that backup... often!**

— Ed Oelschlagler N3ZNI



# Airplane Conversations

Marty N5NW/8 courtesy Jim Reisert AD1C

Although I'm now local to Dayton, I had a business trip to take and found myself at the Dayton airport for a 1:35pm flight Sunday afternoon after the Dayton Hamvention, bound for Detroit. Probably 20 or 25 hams on the flight (regional jet, capacity around 65 I'd guess). As we were waiting, the only seat vacant was next to me. Who walks down the aisle?

Martti Lane, OH2BH.

Man, what an absolute stroke of luck. 45 uninterrupted minutes of conversation with perhaps one of the greatest ambassadors of ham radio in the world. I almost felt like I'd been granted an audience with the Pope or something! But here was a very down-to-earth guy genuinely interested in a conversation with me. Very sincere, very genuine, and very easy to speak with.

Martti spoke at the contest forum, and is currently organizing WRTC 2002 in Finland. But on the plane, he spoke to me about the first WRTC in Seattle, and the problems that were encountered that the Organizing committee was trying to avoid 10 years later.

That led to a discussion of what good ham radio can do as ambassadors, and how little the typical DXpedition (both general DX and contest) adds to the local environment. He (like I) visited Albania. I made about 45 contacts. He made several thousand contacts, and created 20 or so licensed amateurs, and instituted the amateur radio system in the government of Albania. The license document format (double columns, in Albanian and English) was his creation.

He didn't say this to brag. Far from it. Rather, making a positive impact on the locations he visits has become a priority. He was so taken aback by the hospitality of the Albanian people, and how the experience impacted him (and his son, who accompanied him). But since then, his outlook on DXpeditions has changed. As he told me, DXers will never be the Red Cross, nor should we be. But we (as a whole) need to examine ways we can leave the areas we visit better than we found them. And not just with our equipment. We have to also share our knowledge. And, hard as this is to realize, we may have a little to learn ourselves. Martti freely admits he got more from his experience in Albania than he left.

He spoke of his host family back in 1992, and the matriarch going about each morning to gather the day's food from various vendors in the neighborhood in which they lived. This same ritual occurred during my visit two years ago. One shop for bread, another for produce, another for meat. Nothing beyond that day, as preservation of foods is still quite difficult, and appliances hard to come by.

But one particular morning, the matriarch returned with something special. After asking around, she had located an egg. One egg. And as the family gathered, they insisted that Martti's son enjoy the egg that obviously they hadn't had in some time. Martti's son told him that was the most difficult egg he had ever eaten. But the family did receive their reward ... They enjoyed him, enjoying the egg!

He spoke of the Solomon Islands trip, and how they convinced the locals to manufacture soaps and other materials from the native coconut trees. For a \$25 donation to the local cause, you got a commemorative QSL, rather than the standard QSL. You got the card perhaps a few days quicker. But the locals got the money. He expected to raise perhaps \$4,000 to \$5,000 and ended up with five times that, through the generosity of the DX community.

I really didn't intend that this sound "preachy". But I hope we all begin asking questions of the DXpeditions about how they have a positive impact on the places they visit. I hope we demand our contesters who were selected for WRTC also

*(Conversations Continued on page 10)*

## FYI Networks

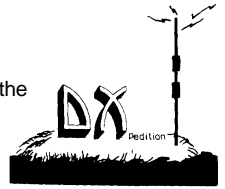
For Your Information needs

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 and FTP access. 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.

FYI Networks now also provides sDSL service in selected areas. **WASH** Members can get DSL for the discounted rate of only \$47.50/month. A pre-qualification must be done to see if your address is in the DSL coverage area. Call John Vasicek at 412-488-7800 for more information about FYI sDSL services & benefits.

Many thanks to FYI Networks for making these special offers available to us for the past four years!

## DX News Briefs



**7O1YGF** has been an active source of conversation since the DXpedition ended two years ago. One of the largest complaints has been that it had not been accepted for DXCC credit, mainly because no documentation (including permission to transmit from Yemen) had been provided to the ARRL DXCC Desk. The good news is that DL5EBE personally turned the awaited documentation over to the ARRL's N7NG at the Friedrichshaven Ham Radio Fair at the end of June. A decision is eagerly awaited! Sadly, one of the 7O1YGF ops, DJ7MG, became a Silent Key in April 2002 — DK9KX

### The Sir Francis Drake Report:

"**HH2WU**" was QRV in early July looking for a US QSL Manager — no email address, contact via QRZ.com address. He does not appear to be listed in any on-line call book. — K4VUD

**ZD7CW**'s QSL manager reports someone is pirating Julian's call. The pirate has been QRV infrequently. Julian has been QRT for many years — N4CID

"**VK9ML**" has been spotted recently on 15 RTTY. The last DXpedition there was QRV in April 2002, so it's probably not them! — W9OL

**V31KQ**'s QSL Manager, WAØETE, also reports that someone is pirating this call. It was last active from 23 April – 2 May 2002. WAØETE & KØGHK do not plan to return for during 2002. The call has not been reissued — K9RZ

"**9Q5BQ**" has been active since April on 30,20 & 17 CW. The operator is not in Kinshasa DRCX, and the last holder of the call (HB9AMO) has not been in country since 2001. — F6BLQ, 9Q1A, OPDX

Info on the IARU HQ. stations active during the IARU Championship can be found at <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/iaru2002.html> — NG3K

"Serge **EK6DZ** has decided against using me as his manager. Please, no more mail" — W3HMK

One of the best individual sources for QSL Information, Bob McCourt **KI4RU**, has been in very poor health lately. Notes of encouragement can be left at <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/ki4ru11/ki4ru/getwell.htm> — VE6TP

GM4FDM has assumed QSL Manager duties for the following stations: **HSØAC**, **HSØ/G3NOM**, **9M2OM**, **E22DX**, **E28DX**, **HS2AC**, **S21U**, **S21ZF**, **XU1NOM** & **XY1HT**. Tom has the logs and is awaiting the cards. Please be patient as there is a considerable backlog on some of these! — GM4FDM

Still waiting for a QSL from **5R8EE**? "I would not waste any time or money... it is a huge black hole! Work someone else, you'll have better success" — W3UR

YT1AD reports that he will be sending out 10,000 QSLs for the **K1B**, **3D2CY** & **3D2CI** operations at the beginning of August, and he asks that we hold off on sending any new requests for at least a month. Patience! — W8KNH

Also, Hrane turned over a large box of blank **K1B** cards to SSB QSL Manager RZ3AA at the WRTC in July. Roman was to begin processing the SSB requests shortly after his arrival home. — T93Y

If you are waiting on your **AP2ARS** card(s), QSL Manager K2PF has received the cards from the printers and began processing them in mid-July — K2PF

KW4DA will begin processing **T2DA** & **3D2CW** as soon as he gets the cards back from the printer in mid-August — KW4DA

## QSL Routes

**4J9NM** via K2PF — K2PF  
**7X2RO** via OM3CGN — W8GC  
**8Q7OA** via RN3OA — KØJN  
**9AØR** via 9A9R — DJ2MX  
**9L1DX** via EA4CEN — K8AJS  
**9N7RB** via W4FOA — W9YK  
**9N7RN** via IK4ZGY — IK4FNF  
**9Q5PA** via KC4PAU — W9OL  
**CU3DJ** via KZ5RO — W4IHI  
**D44AC** via IK3HHX — KØJN  
**EK6DZ NOT** via W3HMK — W3HMK  
**ET3PMW** via W7KEU — K9RT  
**FM5WE** via KZ5RO — W4IHI  
**FR/F6KDF/T** via F5NOD — IK4FNF  
**HH2PK** via N3SL — N3SL  
**J79MM** via NA2U — W7LPP  
**JY9NX** via JH7FQK — W9OL  
**OJØU** via OH1VR — W9OL  
**P5/4L4FN** via KK5DO — DJ3IW  
**S21AR** via JA1UT — K4PHE  
**S9SS** via N4RJ — W4IHI  
**SU9LL** via EA7CHR — W4YCH  
**TA3DD** via KZ5RO — W4IHI  
**VP6AJ** via N9TK — W8TTS  
**XW1HS** via E21EIC — KØJN  
**XW3ZNR** via IN3ZNR — K4PHE  
**YU8/9XØA** via UA3DX — RV3ECW  
**YW4M** via W4SO (mail drop) — K8AJS  
**ZD9IR** via ZS6EZ — K3AIR  
**ZYØSAT** via PS7JN — W3BJ

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) HTX-404 70 cm HT. Bought used at Breezeshooter's Hamfest. The radio had some minor "owner-induced" issues which I easily corrected. Cosmetically an 8 or 9. Functionally an 8. This radio works fine, with the exception of the speaker-mike jack, which is DOA. Unit is complete with belt clip, charger, dry-cell case, antenna, box and manual. Battery is shot, but included. \$40.
- (2) Yaesu FT-10 2-meter HT. Nice condition, with battery, charger, box and manual. This is the same HT as the venerable FT-50, but is the single band version. \$75

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

### For Sale:

- (1) *Proceedings of the IRE* — The Institute of Radio Engineers was one of the predecessors to the current IEEE. IRE published an incredible volume of stuff beginning in 1913 and continuing as IEEE today. The monthly "Proceedings" was the flagship publication. But there were many separate special interest publications that ran quarterly or bi-monthly. There were called "Transactions on (special interest name here)". An example of the special interests covered runs the gamut: Circuit Theory, Nuclear Science, Electronic Computers, Audio, Education, etc. The IRE also published the content of its many annual symposiums and conventions which often had specific themes like Vacuum Tubes, or Silicon Rectifiers, or whatever. I have a bunch of this stuff running from 1951 up through 1966 that I need to get rid of. The ones I have are regular loose issues such as an IRE member would have received. They are not library hardbound volumes. So they have all the ads and so forth. Each year has 1,500 to 3,000 pages in it and weighs 15 pounds. Asking \$18 a year or less for a quantity.
- (2) N connectors. I have a bunch of N-connector stuff including about 5 brand new connectors, n-to-BNC adapters, other adapters, right angle, male to male, etc. I don't use N connectors for anything so maybe someone can use these. \$10 for all.

Contact Don Merz N3RHT at [n3rht@yahoo.com](mailto:n3rht@yahoo.com).

### Wanted:

- (1) Jones Micro-Match 262, MM-2 or similar meter with coupler.
- (2) Heathkit B-1 balun.

Contact Don Merz N3RHT at [n3rht@yahoo.com](mailto:n3rht@yahoo.com).

### Wanted:

- (1) Utility cart for a lawn tractor
- (2) Small home photo-copier
- (3) Kantronics KPC-3 or Pico-Packet TNC

Contact Paul Lusardi NØVLR (412) 688-2318 [n0vlr@arrrl.net](mailto:n0vlr@arrrl.net)

Here is an up date on the **T19M QSL cards** (as of July 29<sup>th</sup>): They are in Kansas City held up by US Customs. They are requiring more information from the Printer, they (Customs) do not understand what QSL Cards are. I have ask the Printer to e-mail me the required Documents so I can fax them to the Customs Office. Once they receive these papers, they will release the cards and they will be delivered to my house.

So please be patience and do not send duplicates or e-mail me. I will let everyone know when the cards do out from my QTH. Thanks for being so patient!

— Bill Boeckenhaupt AKØA,  
T19M QSL Manager [ak0a@kc.rr.com](mailto:ak0a@kc.rr.com)

## Silent Keys



Retired KDKA & WTAE-TV News Anchor Paul Long, July 12<sup>th</sup>  
ARRL Legislative & Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield N1MZA,  
July 29<sup>th</sup>

## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra & ARRL Letter, courtesy American Radio Relay League

**NEWINGTON, CT, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002** — The FCC has officially set \$14.50 as the cost to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. According to a *Report and Order* adopted July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the new fee will become effective for applications received on or after September 9<sup>th</sup>. The current vanity fee is \$12 for the 10-year license term. The FCC had proposed the new, higher fee in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (MD Docket No. 02-64) released March 27 to set Fiscal Year 2002 fees.



In its *R&O*, the FCC took the opportunity to justify its charging the vanity fee for vanity renewals as well as for initial applications. In comments filed in the proceeding, the FCC said, Steven Karty, N5SK, and William J. Hanrahan, W1WH, supported the payment of a regulatory fee to cover the initial administrative cost but questioned having to pay the fee upon renewal. Hanrahan also suggested that there be no cost distinction between vanity call signs and systematically assigned call signs, the FCC said.

The FCC said that because it continues to incur costs related to vanity call signs even after their issuance or renewal, it believes the regulatory fee at renewal is appropriate. "Section 9 of the Communications Act, as amended, provides for the recovery of the Commission's costs associated with its enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities," the FCC said in its *Report and Order*. "Every day, Commission staff are engaged in activities involving amateur vanity call signs, such as protecting the assignment of vanity call signs, investigating complaints on the improper or illegal usage of call signs, requests for call signs that are already assigned to someone else, and all related research that is necessary to insure the proper assignment of call signs."

The FCC said it must collect nearly \$218.8 million through regulatory fees to recover its costs for FY2002. That's \$18.6 million—or approximately 9.3%—more than the amount designated for recovery through regulatory fees in FY2001. Of the total, the FCC estimated vanity fee revenue for FY2002 at \$130,500.

The FCC has estimated that 9000 applicants would apply for vanity call signs in FY2002. Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$12 regulatory fee per call sign (per 10-year license term) until the FY2002 fee schedule becomes effective September 9.

A copy of the FCC Report and Order is available on the FCC Web site.

**NEWINGTON, CT, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002** —The FCC plans to get tougher on electric utilities that fail to fix problems causing interference with Amateur Radio and other licensed communications. Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth met recently at ARRL Headquarters with Ed Hare, W1RFI, and John Phillips, K2QAI, of the ARRL Lab staff to discuss various electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) issues. As a result of that session, changes will be made in the way ARRL and FCC cooperate on power-line cases.

"What we've done is to review all cases that the League has worked on where we had no cooperation," Hollingsworth said this week. "In at least three instances, the power company in question hasn't cooperated as it should have." Hollingsworth said these cases will "go to the next step," which likely will entail involving the appropriate FCC field office for additional investigation and appropriate enforcement. In the future, initial letters from the ARRL and the FCC will impose a shorter compliance window and will be more firmly worded. In addition, a follow-up letter from the FCC will be sent to utilities that fail to respond appropriately to the initial inquiry.

The routine FCC letter to a power company cites the requirement to rectify problems with their equipment "if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment." FCC Part 15 rules classify most power-line and related equipment as "incidental radiators." This means the utility equipment does not intentionally generate any radio-frequency energy but may create it as an incidental part of its intended operation. The FCC urges a utility to locate sources of any interference caused by its equipment and make necessary corrections "within a reasonable time."

Typical was a recent letter from the FCC's Consumer Information and Governmental Affairs Bureau to Commonwealth Edison of Chicago citing radio frequency interference complaints from five Illinois amateurs. According to the FCC, the amateurs had attempted without success to work through the utility's complaint resolution channels.

Utilities that appear unwilling to abide by Part 15 rules regulating unintentional radiation are in the minority, Hollingsworth said. By and large, utilities contacted by ARRL as a result of power-line noise complaints from amateurs have been extremely cooperative, and he had high praise for the League's role in resolving complaints in the early going. Only a handful of cases—perhaps a dozen in all—have ended up

(FCC News Continued on page 10)



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention & 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Butler Hamfest and Computer Show



**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM**

**Butler Farm Show Grounds (Roe Airport)**

**PA Route 68, 3 Miles SW of Butler**

**Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

**\$5.00 Donation for Admission (Includes 1 Main Prize Ticket), Children Under 12 Free  
Free Parking (Room for 2500 Cars) — Overnight Campers \$10.00**

**Outside and Indoor Flea Market Spaces Available**

### **Special Events:**

**ARRL Representatives from Headquarters, Atlantic Division & WPA Section**

**Forums on a wide range of Amateur Radio topics**

**QSL Card Checking for DXCC, WAS, VHF & UHF Awards**

**Talk-in on W3UDX/R 147.39 Repeater**

**To Reserve Indoor Tables contact Kevin Berry KF4RMA**

**380 Three Degree Road, Renfrew, PA 16053-9375**

**(724) 586-1182 or e-mail kf4rma@arrl.net**

**Web site at <http://www.qsl.net/w3udx>**

## **Uniontown Amateur Radio Club 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual W3PIE Gabfest Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002 8:00 AM until ???**

**The GABFEST will be held at the W3PIE Clubhouse grounds located on Old Pittsburgh Road near Altman Road a mile off Route 51 and US Route 119 in Uniontown Pennsylvania, about 45 minutes South of Pittsburgh.**

**Talk-in will be on 147.045 + and 147.255 +. Just call for W3PIE GABFEST Talk-in. Talk-in is provided for directions and GABFEST information. No check in is needed if you know how to get there!**

**Breakfast and Lunch will be served. Refreshments will be available.**

**Free Parking and Free Flea Market Spaces. Vendors welcome to set up prior to 8:00 AM.**

**For more information contact Carl Chuprinko WA3HQK 304-594-3779**

**Or Tony Alviar KA3VOR 724-430-1277 (M-F 8-4)**

*(FCC News Continued from page 9)*

being forwarded by the ARRL to the FCC for action.

"The League's record is outstanding here," Hollingsworth said. "The ARRL has resolved the vast number of these cases." Cases necessitating FCC follow-up action have been minimal, he said, and most of those stem from the utility's failure to understand its obligations under Part 15.

Over the past year, the League has worked with amateurs on behalf of the FCC to handle 72 complaints of suspected power-line interference. Hare, the ARRL Lab supervisor, says that the effort has had its successes, some cases may require more than an advisory letter from the FCC. "Having the FCC field offices investigate those cases where a power company is not willing or able to assume its responsibilities is a good next step," he said. "The League and the FCC both hope that continued cooperation will bring these cases to a satisfactory end without having to resort to drastic enforcement measures."

*(Conversations Continued from Page 8)*

remember that they are ambassadors for amateur radio and the USA, whether or not they want to be. The WRTC is an excellent opportunity.

Recall the US Hockey Team at the Nagano Olympics? They trashed the place after a loss. They did not remember that they were not only competitors, but also Ambassadors.

Other countries come to mind — North Korea offers some real opportunities, just as Albania did in 1970 when Martti first visited. It took 22 years, but Amateur Radio is now established. And the Albanian regime was even tougher than the current North Korean regime! Ham Radio -- Ambassadors of International Goodwill.

Martti, thanks for sharing that plane ride with me. It has changed my outlook on Amateur Radio, and how we might impact our world for positive change.





# 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 ↓)

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

(F1) Full Membership:                      \$20.00                      \$15.00                      \$10.00                      \$5.00

(F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:    \$10.00                      \$7.50                      \$5.00                      \$2.50

(A1) Associate Membership:                      \$10.00                      \$7.50                      \$5.00                      \$2.50

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

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>					

Available	Cost (S M L XL)	Cost (2X 3X 4X)
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 the annual WASH Picnic?
- N3RHT's *Hollow State Ramblings* is back!
- AA3FI & dealing with ICOM Tech "Support!"
- A Conversation with a DX'ing Legend!
- Backup your log lately? No? Uh-oh...
- Ever wonder about those on-line reviews?
- Pennsylvania QSO Party is coming up soon!

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



**HF Will Never Be the Same!**  
Michael KB3HFP/AG & Jacqueline N3ZCG/AG have nothing but smiles as they hold their CSCE's following the July 19<sup>th</sup> WASH VE Test Session! Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

**Meanwhile, at the PVGP...** Corky N3MJP (L) handing out maps, final instructions and volunteer shirts to an (unknown) amateur (C) at Vintage Grand Prix amateur communication registration as Larry K3VX (R) awaits his turn. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2002 Tippi Comden WA3JPP



## The WASHRag

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