



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 4 Issue 12

December 2002

N3SH
WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

The Guard Changes Back

I almost feel like saying "isn't this where we left off?"

First, my personal thanks to Paul Lusardi NØVLR for all of his effort and hard work the last year with the club. It doesn't look like it takes much, but those of you who've done this job (with our club or others) know what's involved in making sure the organization stays focused and continues on track. Paul made it look easy, and especially when you consider how busy the rest of his schedule is, please let him know that his hard work does not go unappreciated!

2003 looks like it will be an exciting year. First up will be our Third Annual 2 Meter contest in mid-January, followed by our Eighth Annual Hamfest at the end of February. Following that will be various other contests and operating events, Dayton Hamvention, our Fifth Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest Picnic, Field Day, the Pennsylvania QSO Party, and more.

On top of all that, 2003 marks the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of this organization. That may not seem like much compared to many of the other clubs in the area, but it's still an important milestone. A lot of Amateur Radio clubs and organizations don't make it past five years, let alone 10.

The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION** may be in the best shape it's ever been, going into our tenth year. Our total membership may be at it's highest point ever (over 90!). Our active membership — those who make a good portion of the meetings, turn out for our events, join us for breakfast, and/or check into the weekly net on a regular basis — hovers between a third and a half of the total membership, and that is an astonishing number, something we should all be proud of.

My goal this next year is to keep things going. There's still a lot of things we can & should be doing, and there's always things that need worked on. You'll hear more from me on that in the next few weeks. And if you have any ideas on that score, let me know. You can also plan on my trying to get more club members involved in all of the things we do. The club officer's can't (and shouldn't) do it all, so we plan to start delegating. The more we all get involved, the more we can do, and the more fun we can have together.

And isn't that what it's all about?

See you at the party!

73, Ron Notarius WN3VAW, *President-Elect*
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. N3SH/WA3SH



**Annual WASH
Christmas /
Holiday Party
Thursday,
December 12th**



The Annual **WASH** Christmas/ Holiday Party & December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12th, at **Al's Café, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park**, starting at 6:30 PM until ???

Cost is \$14.99 per adult, children under 3 – 10 half price (children under 3 are free). As always, the party is open to all **WASH** members and their families, and to friends of the club. We already have 45 people planning to attend!

If you are planning to go, please let me know as soon as possible. Call me at (412) 884-1466, call me on the 146.955 repeater, or e-mail me at n3sbf@libcom.com. Also, I need the money by December 3rd. You can get the money to me at the next meeting or you can mail me a check, or call me to make alternate arrangements.

The menu will feature two entrees, salad, two side dishes and ice cream for dessert, and there will be a cash bar. There will also be a Chinese Auction (with LOTS of nice prizes!), and installation of the 2003 officers. Everything was fantastic last year, and we expect it to be as good or better this year too!

I know we will have a nice time because we have good company! Hope to see you there!

— Carol Danko KB3GMN, *Ways & Means Chairman*

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Next Meeting: December 12th, 2002

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be our annual Christmas/Holiday Party on Thursday, December 12th, at **Al's Café, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park**, starting at 6:30 PM.

There won't be much business, but there will be good food, good friends, a "Chinese Auction," and more

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RN/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

December
NCS Stations:





12/01 Paul NØVLR
 12/08 Kevin N3HKQ
 12/15 Joseph KB3ENX
 12/22 Hank KB3FNM
 12/29 Michael KB3HFP

Want to volunteer to be a Net Control Station? Please contact FM Net Manager Kevin N3HKQ for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **WASH 3rd Annual 2M Contest January 11th, 2003**
- **Groundwave Contest CW February 22nd**
- **WASHFest 2003, February 23rd, 2003**
- **Groundwave Contest SSB March 22nd**

December 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Uniontown ARC VE Test Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net NØVLR NCS	2 Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	3 S H B P & M Meeting Skyview RS Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS SwapmShop Net	4 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny County ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	5 WACOM Christmas Dinner Penn State ARC Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	6 ARRL 160 Contest Eico ARS Meeting	7 ARRL 160 Contest Skywarn Recognition Day RA Erie VE Test BVARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call
8 ARRL 160 Contest OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net N3HKQ NCS	9 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	10 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Christmas Banquet Ft. Venango M & K C Meeting Punxsatawney AARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	11 North Hills ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny County ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	12 WASH Christmas / Holiday Party Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	13 2 Rivers ARC Christmas Dinner	14 ARRL 10 M Contest Tri-County CW ARC VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
15 ARRL 10 M Contest OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net KB3ENX NCS	16 Steel City ARC VE Test Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	17 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniota Valley ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	18 Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny County ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	19 Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Penn State ARC Social Night Cumberland Valley ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	20 Quad Co ARC Meeting	21 Foothills ARC Christmas Party 2 Rivers ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
22 Winter Begins WASH SANTA NET OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net KB3FNM NCS	23 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net			26 Kwanzaa Begins WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	27	28 WASH Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
29 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net KB3HFP NCS	30 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	31 New Year's Eve Straight Key Night 		1/2 WACOM Meeting Penn State ARC Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	1/3 Eico ARS Meeting	1/4 RA Erie VE Test WPA Hilltoppers VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net

WASH 2003 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Ron Notarius WN3VAW
 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 2003 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 23rd, 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 or <http://doit.pgh.net/~wolfie/washrag.htm>

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test January 16th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 16th, 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 Jacqu  Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: 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 **\$12.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, April 17th, 2003
Thursday, July 17th, 2003
Thursday, October 16th, 2003
Thursday, January 15th, 2004

Wireless Association's 10th Anniversary 1993 – 2003

Next year marks the 10th Anniversary for WASH. Have any favorite stories or tall tales about the early days of the club? Let us know — we hope to be able to run some of those during 2003!

The **WASH Breakfast Gang** met on November 30th the **Ponderosa Restaurant**, Wal Mart Plaza, Washington (right behind the Cracker Barrel on Route 19). This time around saw W3WH, N0VLR, K3VX, KB3GOT, N3IDH, N3ZEL, N3ZNI, W3RWS, W3RJM, N3SBF, KB3GMN & WN3VAW enjoying the buffet.

Topics tossed around were Thanksgiving leftovers, meeting rooms, the roads of Bethel Park, the 10 meter contest, workman's comp, eBay discovered, "soot gray" paneling in the mills, dog kennels, listening to NPR, dying FT-100's, operating club nets, "Chinese" auction items for the Christmas Party, and the 2 Meter all mode contest — and more.



N3IDH, KB3GOT & N3ZNI mugging for N3ZEL's camera at Breakfast. Photo ©2002 Jacqu  Gosselin N3ZEL

Join us next month for these subjects & more, plus a cup of coffee & a good time! The next Club Breakfast will be on December 28th at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads. See you there!

QRZ? Another new call to go with a familiar voice... Chuck ex-N3CCC is now AB3AB. Congratulations!

On the mend: Steve Lane W3SRL had elective surgery on his lower back on Thursday, November 21st. He's been having problems for the last few months since suffering an injury at work in August. The procedure, a lumbar laminectomy, ended up last for over 90 minutes as they disk turned out to be ruptured, not herniated. The good news is that Steve reports that all of the pain and numbness in his left leg is now gone. He will be recuperating at home for a few more weeks before returning to light duty sometime in December, and should be back at full strength by the end of January.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest: The annual ARRL 10 Meter Contest is coming up December 14th & 15th. If you're planning to operate in it, drop a note to the club reflector and let people know. If you're not planning to do so, give it some thought. 10 meters can be a heck of a lot of fun, especially at this point in the solar cycle, and it's not unusual at all to be working into Europe and Africa at one moment, the Caribbean & South America the next, and the Pacific and Asia not too long after that — and all with 100 Watts or less to a vertical!

WASH 2 Meter Contest: The 3rd Annual WASH 2 Meter Contest is coming up in about 6 weeks. Now is the time to start mentioning it in your QSO's with other amateurs on the area repeaters, or making announcements during club and public service nets, and just reminding everyone what a heck of a lot of fun it is! This year we're expanding it to include 2 meter SSB & CW in addition to FM, and some other plans are in the works for it too! Complete rules are on Page 8, and will also soon be available on the club web site.

"A Three Hour Tour...": With Winter approaching, and already a few snow falls to clean up after, it seems almost silly to ask: How would you feel about going on a mini-DXpedition with other WASH members to a nice, warm spot for a week or so of sun and fun? Don't start packing yet; if it happens, it probably won't be until next Fall or even next Winter, to give everyone time to make arrangements and save up some \$\$\$\$. The general idea will be for a group of us (and our spouses, of course!) to head for a vacation spot and combine a vacation and some operating. Give it some thought, and watch future newsletters for more information... and no group boat rides going near uncharted desert islands (unless they're potential new DXCC entities, of course...), at least until we figure out who's playing Gilligan & the Skipper...

Congratulations on their re-election to new terms to both ARRL WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE, and ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN. We're looking forward to working with you both to support Amateur Radio in WPA for the next few years to come!

My first QSO was.....

Tell us about your first QSO EVER on amateur radio. Be specific, please and go into a little more detail than the band mode, callsigns, etc. Were you licensed yet, or working as a guest op in your Elmer's shack? Was it when you opened the package left for you by the big brown goodie truck that contained your new HT? Tell us your (short) story in your own words.

My most memorable QSO was.....

Tell us in your own words what was your most memorable QSO so far, and why. Please give the details, and describe to our readers why THAT particular QSO stands out in your memory, or has special meaning to you. Was it a celebrity that you worked, or was it done on a rig that you built yourself? Or was it simply the first time you were mesmerized by hearing everyday people conversing over hundreds or thousands of miles as a SWL?

Compiled by the **WASHRag** staff (egged on by Steve W3SRL, who just got appointed to the **WASHRag** Staff!)

Hotmail.com & Juno.com notified the ARRL on November 25th that they are now blocking e-mail forwarded to users of their services from @arrl.net addresses.

This is, in part, their solution to Internet SPAM.

~6000 ARRL members around the world are affected by this action.

ARRL is working with their vendor to solve the problem.

Hotmail.com restored service on November 26th.



Recognized at the November meeting for his past service as the WASH FM Net Manager was Bryan Beyer K3OL.

WASH President Paul N0VLR apologized for the delay, since Bryan has been very busy with work since giving up the Net Manager position, and this was the first meeting since then that has had both of them it attendance!

Photo courtesy of & ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Happy Holidays to One and All — From the Wireless Association of South Hills

Minutes, November 14th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/ Secretary, WASH

Paul, NØVLR, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:14 hours. There were 27 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made by W3WH to **accept the minutes** of the October meeting as published in the November newsletter. N3QMV seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark reported the club's account balances.

Secretary (KB3FZU): No Report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): VE tests are over for this year. When ARRL recognizes 2003 requests, we will post our test dates.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): No Report.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Kevin has a full schedule that goes through the end of the year. Kevin thanked everyone that had volunteered to operate as net control.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): If you plan on attending the club's annual Christmas Party, please get your check to Carol, KB3GMN, by the end of the month. The party will again be at Al's Café. The cost per person is \$14.99 and the party will be held on Dec 12th at 6:30 PM. So far there are 3 prizes for the auction that will be held at the party.

Public Service (N3RDV): Mark reports that the public service events are quiet for the remainder of the year.

Contests (K3VX): Dan, KB3HVN – can get mugs for the 2 meter contest as an incentive to participate, like the PA QSO Party. The cost to the entrant would be around \$15.00.

Mark, N3RDV – The 1st weekend in Dec. is the RTTY sprint – Mark has the rules. The 1st full weekend in Jan. is the ARRL roundup. The 1st Full weekend in Dec. is the ARRL 160 M CW contest.

PA QSO Party wrap up – The N3SH crew had a good time in Clarion County.

Thanks to Ritchie, N3SBF, for the accommodations. N3SH was able to obtain a clean sweep of all 67 counties. The WA3SH group said that it was fun giving out the 2 for 1 special. Bill, W3WH; Larry, K3VX; Steve, W3SRL; Shawn, NØPEU; and Ritchie, N3SBF, were presented with their clean sweep awards for the N3SH operation. Ted, W4ZE, was presented with a clean sweep award for his operation from Washington County. Ed, N3ZNI, and Dave, KB3GOT, were presented with "Street Sweeper" Awards for their mobile operation. Logs are due to be postmarked by 11/15/2002. No word yet on the club's application to be the 2003 bonus station.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): Newsletters were mailed out.

President's Report (NØVLR): Paul presented a plaque to Bryan, K3OL, for his service as FM Net manager. Paul also thanked the club for the opportunity to serve as president this past year.

Officer Elections: A review of the officers' nominations from last month's meeting was read. A call was made to the floor 3 times for additional VP / Secretary Nominations. Carol, KB3GMN, motioned to close this round of nominations, Shawn, NØPEU, seconded.

The nominees for president were asked if they were willing to serve – Bill, W3WH, Declined – Larry, K3VX, Declined – Ron, WN3VAW, Accepted. - Ritchie, N3SBF, Declined. Requests were made for additional nominations. Shawn, NØPEU, was made by Bob, W3RJM – Shawn accepted the nomination. A call was made to the floor for additional president nominations 3 times. A motion to close president nominations was made by Carol, KB3GMN, and seconded by Ed, N3ZNI.

Voting forms and pencils were passed around. After a careful count the results were presented: Ron – 17; Shawn - 12. Congratulations to the new club president Ron, WN3VAW.

New Business: Dan, KB3HVN, printed up a price and a sample of a banner that could be displayed at field day. If we print the logo without color the cost would be about \$50. If we print with full color the cost would be about \$90 for a 2' x 6' banner. A motion to order the banner was made by Paul, NØVLR, Shawn, NØPEU, seconded; the motion was voted on and passed.

Good of the Order: A case is available for a FT-817 – see Paul, NØVLR. Copies of *World Radio* were on the table. A letter of thanks to Nelson, N3PN, for the donation of the 2 Meter 70 cm antenna will be sent by Frank, KB3FZU.

WASH Spotlight: 3 Generations



When Christopher Beyer, age 10, became KB3IJX this summer; it established three generations of Hams in the Beyer family. Starting the journey was John Beyer K3LK, Christopher's grandfather, becoming a Novice in December 1962. John upgraded to a Technician in 1964 and a final upgrade to Extra in 2001. John is currently a member of the Delta Amateur Radio Club, Memphis, Tennessee. Bryan Beyer K3OL, Christopher's father, became a Ham in high school with a Technician license. Bryan's involvement with the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** and their encouragement energized Bryan to get his Extra class license in 2000.

Story and photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2002 Bryan Beyer K3OL

Every month we're going to try and feature a different WASH club member and/or something about them, or a club or club related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the **WASH Spotlight** should be sent to Ron Notarius WN3VAW, wn3vaw@arrl.net.

Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, December 28th

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, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time together!

Join us at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Baptist and Grove Roads in the Caste Village Shops, Whitehall.

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	KB3ERQ	KD3JV	N3RHT	N8DPW	Silent Keys
AA3JS	KB3FGO	KE3XB	N3RNX	W3GEL	K3EED
AB3AB	KB3FNM	KE7FD	N3SBF	W3HND	N3KEH
K3BZW	KB3FQT	KE8RN	N3SRC	W3JAF	N3OBD
K3LIE	KB3FZU	KQ3DX	N3TBK	W3RJM	N3SKR
K3OL	KB3GMN	NØPEU	N3UE	W3RWS	W3ZLK
K3VX	KB3GMO	NØVLR	N3UIW	W3SRL	
K3WR	KB3GMP	NØWPV	N3VEH	W3VE	Color Codes:
K9LZ	KB3GMU	N2QIV	N3WPT	W3VFA	2003 Member
KA3PPH	KB3GOT	N3AWF	N3XFE	W3WH	2002 Member
KA3TFB	KB3GZG	N3BSQ	N3XI	W4ZE	2001 Member
KA3TWI	KB3GUZ	N3CZZ	N3YPB	WA3JPP	2000 Member
KA3UPY	KB3HFP	N3FZ	N3YQY	WB3BPH	
KA3WZO	KB3HVN	N3HKQ	N3ZCG	WB3GTL	
KB3YTS	KB3IAC	N3IDH	N3ZEG	WN3BOJ	
KB3ANH	KB3IJX	N3INT	N3ZEH	WN3VAW	
KB3CPI	KB3IRQ	N3KFD	N3ZEL		
KB3DCO	KB3QX	N3MJQ	N3ZNI	Barbara Mistic	
KB3ENX	KC2JJB	N3QMV	N4MIS		
KB3EPI	KC6VLV	N3RDV	NP2JF		

Through November 30th, 2002

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 5)

2002 Was a Very Good Year!

I'd like to thank each of you for your support over the past year, the **WASH** Executive staff, committee persons and other helpful people who chipped in a bit of time or talent to contribute to the overall success of the **WASH** club in 2002.

My wish was to run again for re-election (whether you could stand another year of me, I'm not sure :) but as my family's need increase, I must take a back seat to my hobbies.

I have full confidence in Ron's abilities to preside (once again) as **WASH** President.

I look forward to all the **WASH** events of 2003, including:

- January 2 Meter contest
- February **WASHFest 03**
- May Dayton Hamvention
- June **WASH** Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest
- June ARRL Field day
- July Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix
- August **WASH** family picnic
- October Pennsylvania QSO party
- December **WASH** Christmas/Holiday party

— 73, Paul Lusardi NØVLR, President,
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS N3SH / WA3SH

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

You can register once per day to win a FT-897 radio from www.gigaparts.com. The ad is on page 16 of December's *QST*.

Dan, KB3HVN, has been nominated to the Logo Committee by Paul, NØVLR – This was voted on and was passed.

Hamfest Report (W3WH): Hamfest Committee – Steve has taken care of registering and sanctioning by the ARRL. Kevin has made the press arrangements. The flyers have been sent out. Jack the caterer has been contacted – it looks good that he will be able to attend. We hope to continue the gains we have seen over the past few years.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Bill, W3WH, and seconded by Ted, W4ZE. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:15.

N3ZNI Mobile Net Score, 2002 Pa QSO Party

County	QSO	Mults	W3FRC	Bonus	Net
Armstrong	31	30		500	1,430
Indiana	31	28		500	1,368
Jefferson	23	19	200	500	1,137
Elk	11	12		500	632
Clarion	17	15		500	755
Venango	47	37		500	2,239
Warren	15	17		500	755
McKean	35	30		500	1,550
Potter	90	53	200	500	5,470
Cameron	173	71		500	12,783
Clinton	31	20		500	1,120
Totals	504	94	400	5500	53,276

11 Counties, 697 Miles

N3ZNI Operating, KB3GOT Driving & Logging

Silent Keys



George Henf KK4CW, 71, co-founder of GAP Antennas, November 8th
 H. Taylor Howard W6HD, father of direct-to-home satellite TV reception,
 November 13th
 Bob White W1CW, 83, "Mr. DXCC," ARRL DXCC Manager 1952-76,
 November 22nd



Recognized at the November club meeting were the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party N3SH Operators for once again working all 67 Counties during the contest! Shown displaying their "Clean Sweep" brooms, L – R: Shawn NØPEU, Paul NØVLR, Larry K3VX, Bill W3WH & Richie N3SBF. Not shown: Steve W3SRL. Thanks again to Paul NØVLR for coming through with the awards!

Photo courtesy of & ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW



Also recognized was Ted W4ZE, who also got a "Clean Sweep" from his home station in Washington County during 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party. Although several other WASH members came close, only Ted was able to achieve it this year, while taking honors for top individual score in the club.
 L – R: Ted W4ZE, WASH President Paul NØVLR
 Photo courtesy of & ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW



And not to be forgotten was the N3ZNI Mobile team, N3ZNI and KB3GOT, that received nothing but praise from a significant portion of the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party participants, as they were responsible for handing out needed counties for most of Saturday & Sunday, and were personally responsible for many stations completing their Clean Sweeps! Although they did not earn a "Clean Sweep" themselves, in recognition of their outstanding effort, Ed and Dave were presented with special "Street Sweeper" awards! L – R: Ed N3ZNI, Dave KB3GOT, & WASH President Paul NØVLR.

Photo courtesy of & ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Electric Radio magazine now has a new owner, Ray Osterwald NØDMS. It is now available to vintage radio enthusiasts; subscription information and more can be found at www.ermag.com
 — Brad Stone NB9M

History's Mysteries

Larry D. Clark KØRS courtesy of eHam.net

To the comfort of the old timer, and often the frustration of the newbie, ham radio remains dedicated to (some would say mired in) tradition. Like many avocations, we have developed a vernacular intelligible only to the initiated. On a hot day we can pull a cool 807 from the fridge. Perhaps we must QRT to take the XYL to the store. Indecipherable phrases to general populace, but clear as a bell to the average ham. Often we perpetuate phrases because they are in general use, but have no idea of the origination of the jargon. I recently witnessed an ongoing discussion on another website about the etiology of one of our weirder conventions, the term; **Hi-Hi**. There was a lot of wild speculation about the origin of this particular term, but it was obvious that the opinions being advanced were only guesswork. Well, as Paul Harvey would say, "Here's the rest of the story."

Everyone knows "hi-hi" is the telegraphic laugh. It was picked up and popularized by phone operators, as that mode became common. Lots of folks think it's silly to use CW abbreviations on voice. They contend it's easier to just say what you mean and not use arcane codes. Well, I'll leave that for you to decide, but it's undeniable that these CW terms have become ubiquitous in the phone sub-bands. QSL? But why not just "ha-ha?" It's not like the letter "I" was much quicker or easier to send than "A" in code. It is sometimes speculated that the term should be "hee-hee", not "hi-hi" because of the peculiar way in which it is usually sent on CW. The letter "I" is drug out, not the normal "didit", but rather, "dit dit", two distinct characters. Well, there's our first clue.

Many of our traditions extend back to a time before there even was radio. Like "73", one of our other favorites, "hi-hi" was used extensively by commercial landline operators, and in the same context in which it's used today. Their code, known as American Morse or Continental Code, was similar too, but with some slight differences here and there from the International Morse we use today. One of the differences was the letter "O", which was not sent as the familiar "dahdahdah", but you guessed it "dit dit", with a distinct space between the elements. Timing not so great as to be mistaken for the letters "E E", but definitely not the "didit" of an International Morse "I". So, it seems, the original term wasn't "hi-hi" at all but (drum roll here), "**Ho-Ho**", a term popularized by a jolly elf in a red suit around Christmas, and instantly recognizable as laughter. Lots of these landline operators went on to become hams, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Then, what about "**SK**"? It's the term used to indicate "end of work", or in other words, "I'm signing off with you now." Well, just looking at the abbreviation it's logical to conclude that it is short for "silent key", and in fact that is what most hams accept. But like "hi-hi", the true origin is once again lost in the lore of those turn-of-the-century landline ops.

These guys often worked for news services, and the newspaper business was every bit as competitive then as the network broadcast news is today. A scoop on a competing paper meant increased sales and prestigious bragging rights. Like all good Morse operators, these men looked for ways to speed up their traffic the transfer of information on the landline circuits. One way to increase efficiency was to develop numerical codes that stood for common phrases that were repeated often.

Now, the newspaper business was a lot different then. Pressrooms were hot, industrial settings with linotype machines melting lead for type. Typesetters slaved away in noisy, uncomfortable and dangerous environments. It wasn't unusual for the Jimmy Olsons of the day to run from the lineman's office to the pressroom with an urgent breaking story one page at a time as the Morse operator copied it down off the wire. The lineman needed an unequivocal way to know when a story was finished, so the typesetter wouldn't set a partial story. The numerical code in use provided a way to do this, the signature "**30**", which meant, "end of work." When the lineman received "30" from the sending station, he knew the article was complete.

Take a look at the number "30" in Continental code. Three is "didididahdit", or _.. And zero, while technically the five familiar dashes, was abbreviated with one long "d": "daaaah", just as we do today. Well, what is that in International Morse but _.. or "< b>SK"! When these guys got on the air with their new-fangled wireless devices, the old conventions died hard indeed they didn't die at all. And the new guys just coming up picked up the Old Timer's habits without even knowing why, just accepting that that was how it was done. Although it's more rare today with the advent of electronic keying devices, listen to some ham still using a bug or straight key. Nine times out of ten he will drag out the last element of "SK" just like the landline ops did "didididahiddaaaaah". He's sending Continental Code without even knowing it! And that, dear friends, "is the rest of the story."

Murphy's Law —The 50 / 50 / 90 Rule:
If there's a 50 / 50 chance of something going wrong,
it will go wrong 90% of the time
— Mike Gilmer N2MG

New Contest Logging System

Dale Martin KG5U courtesy of the cq-contest reflector at www.contesting.com

Due to the increasing difficulty, cost, resources, and time computers are causing in amateur radio contesting, our club has determined there is a need to economize and simplify.

Therefore, the goal is to remove all computers from amateur radio contesting by December 31st, 2002. Instead, everyone will need to purchase an Etch-A-Sketch for contest logging.

There are many sound reasons for doing this:

1. No software problems; Everyone will be using the same system.
2. No technical glitches causing lost logs.
3. No more wasted time reading and writing emails or playing solitaire when you should be CQ'ing or S&P'ing multipliers.

Frequently Asked Questions for Etch-A-Sketch Technical Support:

Q: My Etch-A-Sketch has all of these funny little lines all over the screen?

A: Pick it up and shake it

Q: How do I turn my Etch-A-Sketch off?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: What's the shortcut for the Undo?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I create a new log?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I set the background and foreground to the same color?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: What is the proper procedure for rebooting my Etch-A-Sketch

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I delete a log on my Etch-A-Sketch?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I save my log on my Etch-A-Sketch?

A: Don't shake it.

"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"

— Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, FCC Forum, Dayton 2002

Persistence

Roberto Rey HK3CW courtesy of the dx-qsl reflector at www.qth.net

Yes, I have a QSL card from T19JJP (*Cocos Island, a separate DXCC entity from Costa Rica; T19JJP was operated by T12JJP — editor*). Here's the story:

I sent direct to about three different addresses I found searching here and there, with no positive results.

After about a year without my coveted T19 QSL, I had a business trip to Costa Rica and managed to take out some spare time to contact T12JJP. I called him up and he was very resilient about meeting with me. But I was adamant about my QSL and insisted

So he gave me his home QTH and I hang up with a Five O'Clock appointment. Naturally I was there five minutes till with my crocodile smile and my silk suit. I waited sitting down in his sofa for 4 hours looking at the ceiling until he finally came and said a couple of words, felt bad about being a "little late," and made me my QSL without even looking at the log!!!

No more comments... imagine the rest..

Dayton Hamvention® 2003

University of Dayton Room Reservations

Greg KQ3DX has reserved six suites again at the University of Dayton for Dayton 2003. Each suite has two two-bed rooms, a kitchenette, bathroom, and living room area, and comfortably holds 4 people. Cost is expected to once again be about \$80 per suite per night (a small increase over last year). If you are interested, please contact Greg at kq3dx@hotmail.com. This won't commit you to anything yet — he's just trying to get a head count so that we make sure we have enough room for all! Greg expects to be billed for the rooms in January.

The HF Antenna Challenge

Steve Lane W3SRL

If one were to pick a ham radio-related subject that would invoke controversy, you couldn't pick a subject better than HF antennae. Heck, you might as well stick with something nice and safe, such as politics, taxes or religion. In fact, if you were to survey 100 active hams and ask them what their favorite HF antenna system was, you'd be likely to get 75+ different answers. The consensus would be, there is no consensus.

Well, that brings me to the whole point of my article this month: What is YOUR favorite HF antenna system?

What I endeavor to do, is to solicit submissions from you, the readers of the **WASHRag** to determine just what YOUR all-time favorite HF antennae are, and why. Mild to wild, ultra-conservative stealth configurations to "in your face, tower-from-hell" submissions are welcome, and encouraged. What we are trying to do here, is to compile a database of what our members are using, and why. Does it work? Is it stealthy? Is it reliable? Was it expensive? Have you compared it to other antennae at your QTH? Send your submissions to w3srl@yahoo.com, and I'll forward one submission per month to the **WASHRag** editor. I'll make it easy for you, and submit the first month's entry...

In the 20+ plus years that I have been fooling around with HF radio, both as a ham and in the military, one single HF antenna stands out as a stellar performer on the HF bands. That antenna is the Off-Center-fed Dipole, or OCF Dipole for short.

The OCF dipole, is a simple, wire antenna that is not resonant on any amateur band, yet enjoys very favorable performance characteristics on all bands from 80-6 meters with a basic transmatch system. It is reasonably compact, coax-fed, and can be erected in either a flat-top or inverted-vee setup. Not unlike other HF wire antennae, it performs best for most applications when it is mounted high, and clear of obstructions and metal objects. Notice I said MOST applications, because there is the odd exception, which I will go into later.

The OCF dipole is a wire dipole that is fed at the one-third point along its length. With an overall length of 135 feet, that translates to a 45-foot leg and a 90-foot leg. At the feed point is a 6:1 or 4:1 balun, which terminates into a 50-ohm SO-239 connector that allows the antenna to be fed with RG-8X or other common coaxial feeds. The balun tends to be a bit on the heavy side, so it is suggested that it be supported. The wire ends may be bent at 90-degree or other convenient angles to fit whatever the local real-estate configurations allow. As with any wire antenna, the lower in frequency you wish to operate, the higher the antenna needs to be above the ground. ¼ wave or better is the optimum height, but is rarely achieved in practice. The really cool thing about the OCF dipole is that it will fit in tiny, suburban lots that other dipoles won't, due to the uneven-length legs. Also, the OCF tends to be more forgiving in terms of how you bend the wires than other wire antennas, such as the G5RV.

So what is the exception to installing the OCF dipole at ¼ wave or higher above the ground? The military has long used HF wire antennae, including the OCF dipole installed close to the ground for close-in communications uses. Think of it this way: A dipole antenna that is resonant on the 40-meter ham band has to be installed 33 feet up in order to enjoy any directivity at all. At 33 feet, there will be noticeable lobes off to the sides of the wires, and the signal will be noticeably weaker off the ends of the dipole. The takeoff angle is fairly low, making for a good DX antenna. That same dipole, mounted 3 feet off the ground is now effectively omnidirectional, and the working range is noticeably reduced. Sometimes in combat, that is a very good thing. If you've ever tried to work a close-in station on 40m that you could barely hear, then which configuration would you want to use; The skywire that skips over everything local, or the low-profile model with the high takeoff angle?

So how well does the OCF dipole work? Well, every year we use one for the WASH Club's PA QSO Party effort and it performs very well. 230+ QSOs on phone bands from 6-160 meters were made with ease, from obscure PA counties to DX. The internal tuner on my Icom 746 and the club's Icom 738 tuned this wire handily. Mind you, it was designed to only work from 10-80 meters, but 160 and 6 were useable. This antenna was formerly marketed in Europe under the Fritzell name, and gained a reputation not only for performance, but for bulletproof construction, as the Fritzell was made of stainless steel components, using aircraft cable for the wires. If you can find one used, buy it. It will likely outlive you! The only downside is that comparatively speaking, the Fritzell is a very heavy wire antenna.

So there you have it, my personal HF antenna of all time. The keys to your submission(s) should be why YOU like this particular antenna, how it is constructed and installed and how it performs. If you would like to look up a more technical reference for the OCF dipole, the ARRL Antenna Book, 17th edition has a brief write-up on it on page 7-20. I'd be happy to share my copy with anyone interested.



WPA Club Results

Yes, we know, Field Day is not a contest, it's an emergency preparedness drill and public relations opportunity. What's important is how you operate, how well the public perceives your operation, and how much fun you have doing it.

But just for fun, we extracted the all the Field Day 2002 WPA Club scores that we spotted in the December 2002 **QST** to compare how everyone ended up with respect to everyone else. Don't see a club listed? Either they didn't operate, didn't send their log in, or we just plain missed it!

Category	Club	Call	GOTA	QSO's	Score
6A	Columbia-Montour ARC	WC3A	N3KYZ	1,893	7,184
4A	Two Rivers ARC	W3OC		1,778	5,986
3A	Nittany ARC	W3YA	W3GA	3,777	5,946
7A	Butler County ARA	W3UDX	AA3YW	1,527	5,210
4A	WA of South Hills	N3SH	WA3SH	1,405	5,102
2A	Mifflin County ARC	W3MCC		927	3,416
2A	Quad County ARC	N3QC		823	3,340
4E	Steel City ARC	W3KWH		1,227	3,294
5A	Butler County ARPSG	K3PSG		969	3,182
7A	Triple "A" ARA	AC3J		776	2,952
7A	North Hills ARC	W3EXW		580	2,918
4A	RA of Erie	W3GV		979	2,790
3A	Crawford ARS	W3MIE		784	2,764
2A Comm.	Somerset County ARC	K3SMT	W3KKC	988	2,576
5A	Tri-County CW ARC	W3TCW		519	2,192
3A	Monessen ARC	W3CSL		424	2,088
4A	Laurel Highlands VHFS	N3ASE		379	1,972
3A	Horseshoe ARC	W3QZF		447	1,750
3A	Mercer County ARC	W3LIF		389	1,696
5A	WACOM	WA3COM		371	1,652
3A	Cumberland Valley ARC	W3ACH		284	1,558
3A	RA of Corry	W3YXE		284	1,376
2A	Juniata Valley ARC	K3DNA		291	1,302
3A	Skyview RS	K3MJW		200	1,204
3A	Fort Armstrong WA	N3VA		338	1,076
1A Battery	Uniontown ARC	W3PIE		269	1,052
2A	Indiana County ARC	W3BMD		222	958
3A Battery	Bedford County ARS	K3SCM		196	914
2A	Foothills ARC	W3LWW		250	896
1A	SH Brasspounders & M	KB3BUE		142	484

Congratulations to the new 2003 officers for the Steel City Amateur Radio Club W3KWH:



- President:** Mark Strayer AI3J
- Vice President:** Bob McCloskey W3RJM
- Treasurer:** Walt Adkins KA3YNO
- Recording Secretary:** Joe Melnicki WA3FWA
- Corresponding Secretary:** Harry Trentes K3GJS

There are some words in the English language that just seem to be "naturals to become call signs. Of course, some of these shouldn't become calls, and don't, except under a Vanity program or unless issued at random by a computer.

One such word/call combination is MØRON.

But before you accidentally call someone on the air by that call, be aware that it's actually been issued. According to www.qrz.com, the holder is a Mr. Cullin Ozkapee at the Calimore Institute Social Deviant Study Group, Aroma de Oxen, Middlesex, England. Somehow, that seems unusually appropriate...

3rd Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Third Annual WASH 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting! In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the IC-706 and FT-100, this year, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Ah, wait 'till next year!)

Everyone who participated in it the last two years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

So please review the rules and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 11th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 11th, 2002 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 12th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band

FM: FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.405 to 147.585 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, and simplex frequencies below that are **not** to be used.

CW: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

SSB: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

Exchange: Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of WASH or a Club Station. For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code.

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts: Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below .
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators

Scoring: Each Contact, non WASH Member: 1 point
 WASH Member: 2 points
 (*) Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes
 Power: Stations running 10 watts or less: 2
 Stations running over 10 watts: 1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

(*) "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. They include **N3SH, WA3SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible..

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the WASH web site, www.washarc.org (after December 15th, 2001).

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

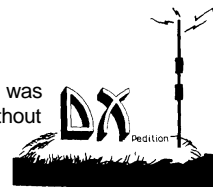
Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
 c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
 60 Carl Avenue B2
 Eighty Four, PA 15330-9235

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 6th, 2003

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2002 on February 23rd!

DX News Briefs



P5/4L4FN QRT: "Friday evening, 2002 November 22, Ed was called into a meeting with the "Radio Regulation Board" without any explanation, he was politely asked to quit all transmissions and pack all his radio equipment. Saturday, he spent all day on the roof disassembling his antennas and packing boxes. At 2:30 PM one of the government officials came by, sealed all the boxes and when he leaves on December 10th for his two weeks R&R he is to take everything with him out of the country. This really hits the ham community hard. I for one was looking forward to a satellite contact on AO-40. I know that many of you were still awaiting your first QSO. Ed will keep all the equipment for his next duty station. Any money received from now on will be donated to help ZL1AMO's emergency air ambulance trip from Fiji back home." — KK5DO

ZL1AMO Ailing: Veteran DX'er Ron Wright ZL1AMO/3D2RW was evacuated by air ambulance from Fiji to New Zealand in mid-November. He was on life support and remains in serious condition. E-mails to Ron can be sent to his daughter at t.j.wright@xtra.co.nz. The International DX Association is collecting donations to help the Wright family with the medical expenses, contact W4UNP for more details— AA7UC, I1JQJ, INDEXA, VK4FW, W3UR

If you work a **C6** station, QSL either direct or via the operator's home call. The Bahamas ARS is in a "dormant" state and the bureau has not been functioning for several years. C6 Bureau cards are currently in the hands of C6AFV, but he has been simply holding them for the last two years. No word on when this situation will change — N4JQQ / C6AFP

"Calls are frequently re-issued in the Caymans. I have been permitted to use **ZF2RR** since 2000, but I frequently receive QSL requests for a 1995 ZF2RR operation by N8SR, which I have to return. QSL ZF2RR (2000 and 2002 ONLY) via N9XX" — N9XX / ZF2RR

G3SWH is awaiting delivery of **8Q7ZZ** cards from the printer. Don't expect them to be mailed prior to Christmas — G3SWH

Waiting for your **LZ75A** card? A "large packet" of cards was delivered to the LZ bureau on November 14th. Almost all cards have now been answered — LZ1PJ

J75A (CQ WW 2002 CW) is a re-issued call. QSL the 2002 op only via KU9C, the original ARRL DX CW 1995 op only via N6ZS — N6ZS, Pathfinder

W3ZMD is **not** the manager for **VQ9IO** or **VQ9X**. Any cards sent to him via the W3 bureau will be forwarded to the Diego Garcia bureau, eventually — K3ZO

Bad weather in Halifax, and a flooded beach on Sable Island itself, delayed the **CYØMM** team's departure until the evening of November 29th. This gave the team several extra days QRV with verticals only. The final on-line log can be found at <http://dx.fireroute.com/cy0mm> — CYØ/VE3EY, VE3NWA

"Monk Apollo **SV2ASP/A** is again outside of Mount Athos and he is gathering olives. He will absent this week and he is expected back to Mount Athos after 6 of December... he told me that no operation from last May. He is not so pleasant with Greek Authorities because they don't give the SY prefix only in Mount Athos and many people outside are confused with the several SY calls from Greece. I asked him to be again on the air. He told nothing for this but I hope he will be again on the air after next weekend (9 December or later)...Don't forget that he doesn't use a computer log so if your info in your QSL are not exactly it is very difficult to find the QSO." — SV1DPI

QSL Routes

5NØNHD via JH8BK — W9OL
5R8HA via G3SWH — G3SWH
5Z4DZ via PA1AW — PA1AW
9J2BO via G3TEV — KDØAL
9UØX via DJ6SI — W9OL
7Q7DX via EA5IQ — W6LFO
C6AFP via N4JQQ — N4JQQ
C98DC via DL7AFS — W9OL
CYØMM via VE3NE — CYØMM
D44TA via OE5XVL — KDØAL
EZ8CW & EZ8A via the KJ6OW
 maildrop — W9OL
H44AT via IZ8CCW — W9OL
HSØ/G3NOM via GM4FDM — UA4RZ
J75A (2002) via KU9C — KU9C
J75A (1995) via N6ZS — N6ZS
J79MM via NA2U — W3BJ
KHØ/KF2XN via W2GR — N2JTX
KH2/KF2XN via W2GR — N2JTX
MD6V via G3NKC — G3SWH
OA8ADM via KC7HRT — W9OL
OHØZ via OH5DX — OH5DX ex-OH1EH
T2DA via KW4DA — W9OL
T88JA via JA6VZB — KUØA
T99W via DL1QQ — KUØA
TN6X via DJ6SI — W9OL
YA4F via G4KUX — W3BJ
VP2VE via WA2NHA — W9OL
ZA1B via OH2BH — OH2BH
ZF2RR (2002) via N9XX — N9XX

Thanks to the NJDXA *DX News* & *DX Chat* Reflectors, the *DX-QSL Reflector*, *425 DX News*, *OPDX News*, *Diamond DX Club News*, *ICPO Bulletin*, & *ARRL DX Bulletin* 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 **WASH**Rag. 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 **WASH**Rag or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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"When I die, come to Gettysburg and buy my equipment — you'll get a hell of a deal.
 Every time I bring something in there, I tell my wife it costs about \$75!"
 — Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, FCC Forum, Dayton Hamvention 2002

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, 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!

FCC News

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

NEWINGTON, CT, November 2nd, 2002 — An Ohio amateur accused of interfering with a local repeater system has agreed to stay off the air for one year. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth notified Gary R. Weiler, K18DI, of Loveland by letter October 22nd to confirm the voluntary license suspension.

"The interference consisted of sound effects, harassment and unidentified communications," Hollingsworth said in his letter. In late September, Hollingsworth had served Weiler with a *Warning Notice* citing monitoring information alleging that on several occasions since last March Weiler had "deliberately interfered" with the K8CLA repeater in Cincinnati, Ohio. The *Warning Notice*, which requested a response from Weiler within 20 days also threatened him with enforcement action up to and including a fine of up to \$7500 and revocation of his amateur license.



Hollingsworth credited the Cincinnati Amateur Radio Club with helping to pin down the source of the interference to Weiler's location. In his reply September 30th, Hollingsworth said, Weiler owned up to the infractions and said they'd involved a personal dispute of some kind. "He said he realized he shouldn't have done it," Hollingsworth said.

After reviewing Weiler's reply, Hollingsworth said he spoke with Weiler, and he agreed to the proposed one-year suspension, during which he will not maintain an Amateur Radio station. FCC said the suspension will end at midnight October 30th, 2003. Hollingsworth said Weiler's amateur license would be returned automatically on or before that date.

NEWINGTON, CT, November 21st, 2002 — The Los Angeles area's ex-W6NUT Repeater has a new owner and a new call sign, N6SAP. Nonetheless, complaints of the same sort of on-the-air behavior that inspired an FCC inquiry of the previous trustee more than a year ago are continuing. In a letter November 5th, FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth put the machine's new owner, Scott A. Press, N6SAP, on the spot because of allegations that some repeater users interfered with attempts to pass emergency traffic. Two users identified as having caused the interference also received inquiries from Hollingsworth.

"We view these allegations as extremely serious," Hollingsworth told Press — the repeater trustee — and those said to have been involved in the October 2nd incident. He also cautioned those accused of perpetrating the problem against retaliating in any matter toward the complainants.

Press purchased the former W6NUT repeater, once owned by Kathryn Tucker, AA6TK on September 3rd, according to FCC Records. At one point in 2001, the FCC terminated authority to operate the repeater under automatic control. An earlier FCC review into the repeater's operation followed allegations that the licensee or control operator failed to address incessant jamming, broadcasting, the playing of music and other potential violations.

An N6SAP repeater user, Anthony Cardenas, WA6IGJ, complained to the FCC that he was jammed October 2nd after attempting to use the repeater to report a motorist stranded in the midst of freeway traffic. Cardenas alleged that Ledge Musselman, KC6NCN, and Anton Johnson, N6OAY, blocked his efforts to alert the California Highway Patrol to the potentially hazardous situation via ham radio. Hollingsworth included the allegations in essentially identical letters to Musselman and Johnson, also sent November 5th.

Hollingsworth reminded Press that the decision to operate a repeater is voluntary. "They are not required by the rules and they are a convenience, not a necessity," he said. "If a licensee or control operator of a repeater cannot prevent violations of Commission rules on the repeater, it must be shut down." Information from Press and others who monitored the incident, documented by recordings, indicated that Press did just that. He shut down the N6SAP repeater for 20 minutes after other operators were unsuccessful in efforts to convince the interfering stations to let Cardenas pass his traffic. According to one account, once the repeater was returned to service, the interference resumed.

Transcripts of the recordings indicate that the interference consisted mostly of disparaging remarks, unmodulated carriers and singing. Cardenas says he was able to contact the police via another repeater. Press has told the FCC that Cardenas' account of the incident was "accurate and true."

According to the FCC, Press has told Johnson and Musselman to stay off the N6SAP repeater at least until the current dispute is resolved. "We expect that request to be honored," Hollingsworth said, "and if it is not, we will immediately institute license revocation proceedings," he wrote.

Ironically, the alleged perpetrators of the interference could run afoul of state as well as federal law. A California statute makes it illegal to maliciously interrupt, disrupt, impede or otherwise interfere with a message over an amateur or CB radio frequency to "inform or inquire" about an emergency.

Now in our EIGHTH big year!



WASHfest 2003

The South Hills Hamfest

Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 23rd, 2003

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

DXCC Card Checking will be available, thanks to Mike Lazaroff K3AIR

**FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA**

MAIN PRIZE DRAWING at 2 PM—You've Got to play to WIN!

- 1st Prize:** Yaesu FT-817 HF/VHF/UHF All Mode QRP Transceiver
- 2nd Prize:** ICOM IC-207H Dual Band Mobile FM Transceiver
- 3rd Prize:** ICOM IC-V8 2 Meter Hand Held Transceiver

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00 — All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Steve Lane, W3SRL at (412) 341-1043 or Bill Hill, W3WH at (724) 746-1776

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.washarc.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSN. OF SOUTH HILLS
897 Lovington Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15216-1725

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2003



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: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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
				Sub-Total	
				6 % Sales Tax	
				Total Enclosed	

<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:

- **Christmas / Holiday Party** Information!
- Announcing **WASHFest 2003!**
- Complete Rules for the 3rd Annual **WASH** Two Meter Contest — not just FM this year!
- The Antenna Challenge!
- Remember Your First QSO?
- A Final Note from NØVLR!

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



“She’s Making A List, And Checking It Twice...”

Ways & Means Chairman Carol KB3GMN merrily taking Kevin N3HKQ’s contribution to the Annual WASH Christmas / Holiday Party, to be held on Thursday, December 12th (details on Page 1). Carol MUST hear from you by Tuesday, December 3rd, as that’s when she’s turning in the deposit and count to Al’s Café. It looks like we’re going to have a great time — don’t miss out!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

The WASHRag

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



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www.washarc.org