



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 5 Issue 1

January 2003

N3SH

WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

WASHFest: 2 Months!

The first hamfest of 2003 for Western Pennsylvania will be **WASHfest 2003**, the Eighth Annual South Hills Hamfest, on February 23rd. Almost two months off... sounds like a long time, doesn't it?

It's not... those two months will melt away almost before you know it.

Thanks to the hard work of the Hamfest Committee (which currently consists of co-Chairmen Bill W3WH and Steve W3SRL, along with Jacqu  N3ZEL, Ed N3ZNI, and others whose names & calls I don't know), a lot of the "behind the scenes" stuff is already taken care of. You should be seeing hamfest announcements in the major publications soon. Flyers will be in the mail any time now. Prizes are lined up, the hall is reserved, and we've already started to hear from vendors for this year's event.

So what can you do? Start talking about the hamfest, as you talk to other hams and on other repeaters besides .955 & .650. No need for a hard sell, but just mention that it's coming up and the date. Get someone interested, and we have a good chance of seeing them at this year's event! It's been months since the last area hamfest, and many hams are ready willing & able to come to the next one!

Plus, we have this year's 2 Meter Contest (you have been mentioning that, haven't you?) with it's tie-in to the hamfest (prize ticket for each log entered). It is an excellent opportunity to also talk up the hamfest along with the contest.

Doesn't sound like much, does it? Yes, but it adds up, and if everyone does a little, we will have another fantastic hamfest this year.

On that line, though, if you have a little extra time, please contact Steve and Bill and see if you can lend them a hand in putting the 'fest together. Yes, they've been doing it for years, and it's almost on automatic. But they do a ton of hard work still, and I'd love to have a more permanent hamfest committee to back them up and spread the load out a little, so that they can enjoy the results of all of that hard work for once, instead of worrying about all of the details.

Steve and Bill will have a hamfest update for us at the January meeting. There's no better time to let them know what you can do to lend a hand and help keep **WASHfest** going strong!

The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION** has earned a reputation for having, not the biggest, but one of the best hamfests in our area. It's something that we should all be proud of, and with a little effort from all of us, we can keep it that way — and then some!

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

Vacation / DXpedition to St. John's, USVI

From time to time, there has been discussion on one of the repeaters, or following one of John Getz AD8J's presentations, of club members taking a trip to a desirable location for a combined DXpedition / vacation.

Well, I am trying to put together just such a trip October 4th through October 13th, 2003, to the island of St. John in the US Virgin Islands.

The basic idea is to be able to work both the 2003 California QSO Party and the 2003 Pennsylvania QSO Party on the weekends, and be tourists during the week. We would most likely fly from Pittsburgh to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and then take a 3 hour Ferry ride from there to St John. (That will depend on air fare costs & which airline you fly... direct to the St. Thomas airport might end up being less, but we won't know that for awhile yet — WN3VAW)

We have been invited to use Paul Jordan NP2JF's rental house. Costs for transportation and housing will be split among the participants. Couples & singles are welcome!

I realize it's hard to plan almost a year in advance but I have to let Paul know if we are really coming and if so how many. The house will accommodate 3 couples. Any overflow will have to stay either at another house or at a local hotel.

Some people may only be able to come for one week of the two. That's OK! Just let us know.

I'm sorry, but I have no idea of the cost per person at this time. Please let me know if you're interested by the January club meeting date at the latest. Once we know how many are interested, we can start figuring out the other planning and costs involved.

— Bill Hill W3WH

Annual 2 Meter Contest This Month!

Complete Rules Page 8!

Next Meeting: January 9th, 2003

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

No special guest speaker, but **WASHfest** planning, final preparation for the 2 meter contest, and other events for 2003 are on the agenda tonight.

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

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

January and
February
NCS Stations:

01/05 Bill W3WH
01/12 Carol KB3GMN
01/19 Paul NØVLR
01/26 Kevin N3HKQ

02/02 Joseph KB3ENX
02/09 Hank KB3FNM
02/16 Michael KB3HFP
02/23 Bill W3WH

Alternates & Backups
Frank KB3FZU
Dave N3IDH
Ron WN3VAW

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

**LOOKING
AHEAD:**

- Groundwave
Contests:
CW Feb 22nd
SSB Mar 22nd
- WASHFest 8,
February 23rd,
2003

J a n u a r y 2 0 0 3						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Uniontown ARC Meeting</i> <i>Cancelled</i> Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	2 WACOM Meeting Penn State ARC Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	3 Elco ARS Meeting	4 <i>Kid's Day</i> RA Erie VE Test WPA Hilltoppers VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
5 Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South 1 ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	6 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co PS Net	7 SHBP&M Meeting Skyview RS Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	8 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VFHS Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	9 WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	10	11 WASH 2M Contest Skyview RS VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
12 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South 1 ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	13 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co PS Net	14 Foothills ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Punxsatawney AARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net SATERN Net	15 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	16 WASH VE Test Triple "A" ARA Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Mtng Uniontown ARC Net	17 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC Meeting	18 <i>ARRL VHF Contest</i> Mercer Co ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
19 <i>ARRL VHF Contest</i> Elk County ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South 1 ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	20 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co PS Net	21 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Mckean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniaata Valley ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	22 North Hills ARC Activity Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	23 Uniontown ARC Net	24	25 WASH Breakfast Indiana Co ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
26 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South 1 ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	27 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co PS Net	28 Mercer Co ARA Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	29 Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	30 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	31	2/1 RA Erie VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call Somerset Co ARC Breakfast 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
		Echo Link #26861 (courtesy W3SRL)
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 Jacqué 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

This 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 December 28th back at **Dietz's Restaurant**. Closing out the year were K3VX, N3ZNI, W3WH, W3RJM, W3VFA, KB3FNM, N3ZEL, WN3VAW, W4ZE & W3SRL. Topics of the morning ranged from signal generators and boat anchor repair to operating in the '03 Pa QSO Party, the USVI trip next fall, Contest Software & "Super Check Partial," logging A61 stations, the ARRL DX contests (past & future), vanity calls, telephone service, telephone solicitors, tube finals & gassy tubes, the fine print with cell phone bills & \$9.95 ISP's, test equipment, fixing C5A's stuck on the runway at ZD8, switching vs. traditional power supplies, venison processing, and a heck of a lot more too!

Join us next month for these subjects & more, plus a cup of coffee & a good time! The next Club Breakfasts will be on January 25th at the **Ponderosa Steakhouse**, Wal Mart Plaza off Route 19, Washington, and on February 22nd back at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads. See you there!

Switching breakfast venues: Starting in 2003, we're going to alternate the monthly Club Breakfast site between **Dietz's** and the **Ponderosa**. Even though it's been wildly successful since we started it, some club members simply can't make it every month because of the long drive; this way, we try and give everyone a chance to make it to a more convenient site at least every other month.

Santa Net 2002: Once again, on the Sunday just before Christmas, Santa made a special visit to the shack of Bryan K3OL to talk with any children who wanted to make a last minute request. This year, a total of six children and their parents checked into the Santa Net on 146.955, and were thrilled that they could talk directly to him! Our thanks once again to K3OL for making the arrangements for the Jolly Old Elf to visit, and for cleaning up after all of the reindeer afterwards!

Santa's Surprise: If you think that Santa only brings presents to little children, think again. Rick KB3IAC got a very special Christmas gift... seems his wife and oldest son secretly studied for and passed their Technician licenses! So now Rick and his son Alex KB3IRQ are joined by Jan KB3IVX and Nate KB3IVW as a "Four Pack" ham family! Congratulations one and all! No word yet on whether or not they'll succeed in getting Rick's two daughters licensed too, to make it a "Six Pack!" [but remember Rick, "With Six You Get Egg Rolls!" Or perhaps we should say, "With Six You Get Hand Helds!"]

What about the 2003 Pa QSO Party Special Event Station? As you know, we asked the Nittany ARC a few months ago about having N3SH being the Special Event Bonus Station for the 2003 Pa QSO Party, in honor of the club's 10th Anniversary this year. So how will the St. Thomas trip (page 1) impact that? We haven't figured that out yet, and a lot will depend on who goes on the trip and when they go & how long they stay in KP2. Stay tuned!

On the 15 Day DL: On New Year's Eve we learned that Burke W3SDV has been staying temporarily in the Bethel Park area, and that he was recently admitted to St. Clair Hospital for reasons unknown. Here's hoping that he's on the mend and on the loose by the time you read this!

Echo-Link Update: The W3SRL Echo Link is now running on a new Windows XP computer system. Steve hopes the new computer will prove more reliable than the unit it replaced. As always, there are some fine tuning and adjustments that may need to be made, so if you notice anything amiss with Echo-Link, let W3SRL know as soon as possible.

Ever wonder who reads the newsletter? Information from last month's chart showing the Field Day 2002 standings for WPA Clubs has shown up in at least two other club newsletters... one even credited us (Thanks **SparkGap!**)

Yes, it's that time of year again... First of the year means that annual WASH dues are due. The club has only two sources for the funds that pay for all of our activities... dues and **WASHest** revenue (if any). We've held the line & not increased dues again this year, but we need you to do your part too and renew (or join!) as soon as you possibly can. And thanks from all of us!

The ARRL has announced that it will now provide FCC license renewals or modifications, or sequential call sign changes, for non-ARRL members. The fee for non-members to provide these services will be \$12, to keep it in line with current VE Exam fees.

The ARRL does not charge members a fee to process their FCC license renewal or other license modifications. More information is available by emailing vec@arrl.org



Santa Claus himself snapped this photo of Bryan K3OL running the Santa Net, just prior to his special visit to KB3IAC's house!

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Bryan Beyer K3OL

"Our Founders..."

The very first meeting of what is now known as the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS took place on August 23rd, 1993, at the "Eat-N-Park" Restaurant in Raceway Plaza. Founding member and current club Webmaster Bob AA3FI tried to remember everyone who was there, and came up with this list:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Chuck Allen, N3MJQ | Bob Sanford, AA3FI |
| Ed Salva, W3VFA | Dick Barney, N3QMV |
| Keith Jefferies, N3LAP | Matt Matter, KB3ANH |
| Ron Lentz, N3WX (SK) | Jeff Pleva, N3NKN |
| Lori Lentz, N3NSZ | Karen Pleva, N3QAR |
| Steve Hunter, N3MAA | Randy Ide, N2QIV |
| Jim Mounts KA3EBX | |
- "I'm not sure if these guys were at first meeting:"
- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Ira Groff, W3ZLK (SK) | Don Volant, N3KEH (SK) |
| Don Fincher, KA3WZO | |

Bob's sure he's missing some people. Anyone know who's not on the list of Founders that should be?

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 11!

Minutes, December 12th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/ Secretary, WASH

Paul, NØVLR, **called** the meeting **to order** at 18:49 hours. There were 45+ members and guests in attendance.

A **moment of silence** was observed for recent Silent Keys and other deserving persons.

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

This meeting was held at Al's Café and was the Christmas party, so the business section was brief. Paul, NØVLR presented Steve, W3SRL with the clean sweep award for his operation at the N3SH site. Carol, KB3GMN thanked everyone who helped out to make the Christmas party a success. Ron, WN3VAW presented a certificate of award to Paul, NØVLR for his service as president.

Finally, Dan, KB3HVN presented the club with a large banner that can be displayed whenever we have a special event.

The winners of the Chinese auction were:

- Engraved Pa QSO Counties Map: Bill, W3WH
- Homeowners tool kit: Bill, W3WH
- Fruit Basket: Ed, N3UE
- Wild Bird Feed: Ritchie, N3SBF
- Pampered Chef: Ed, N3ZNI
- Samsonite Briefcase: Ritchie, N3SBF
- Flashlight: Ben, KB3ERQ
- Flashlight: Bob, W3RWS
- Flashlight: Christopher Beyer, KB3IJX
- Utility Drawer Box: Bill, W3WH
- AES Gift Certificate: Shawn, NØPEU
- Al's Café Gift Certificate: Herman, N3AWF
- Giant Eagle Gift Certificate: Noreen Keifner
- Log EQF Software: Kevin, N3HKQ
- Soup Basket: Carol, KB3GMN
- WorldRadio Subscription: Ed, N3ZNI
- WorldRadio Subscription: Herman, N3AWF



Paul NØVLR announcing another "Chinese Auction" winner at the 2002 WASH Christmas / Holiday Party, as Carol KB3GMN as her helpers Jessie and Kara pick the winning tickets. Photo courtesy of and ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

WASH Spotlight: AA3JS



Congratulations!!! to Samantha Sanford AA3JS, who was accepted into the **Carnegie-Mellon University Biomedical Engineering Program** on December 12th. Proud father Bob AA3FI reports that "when we talked with the admissions officer last fall, they were really impressed with her ham radio license."

Many recent club members may not know this, but Sam earned her Novice when she was 8 and has held her Amateur Extra ticket since she was 9!

Hmmm... wonder if we should put the Carnegie Tech Radio Club W3VC membership on alert... or just let her surprise them?

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2002 Robert Sanford AA3FI

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 should be sent to Ron Notarius WN3VAW, wn3vaw@arrl.net

Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, January 25th

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!

Starting in 2003, we will be alternating our breakfast locations every month to make it easier for club members to get to at least one of them:

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

Join us in **ODD** months at the **Ponderosa Steak House**, Wal Mart Plaza, Route 19 (just off I-70), Washington.

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!



Special event station KM1CC will be on the air January 11th — 19th, 2003, to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US & England, January 18th, 1903.

The special event is a partnership between the Marconi Radio Club, W1AA, the Marconi Cape Cod Memorial Radio Club, KM1CC, and the National Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore. It will take place at the former Coast Guard station at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts, near the original Marconi site.

Operation will include several amateur modes, including SSB, CW, FM, digital and satellite.

Silent Keys



- Lavern Peters KA3EXO, 74, Aliquippa, November 27th
- Stanley P. Cole Jr. AD3T, 60, Washington PA, December 8th
- Michael Aquilina Sr., Grandfather of Michael KB3HFP, December 9th
- Arlene Bender WA1VMC, 84, former ARRL staff member, December 11th
- Dwight Rohn, 93, founder, Rohn Industries, December 16th
- Grote Reber ex-W9GFZ, 91, Radio Astronomy Pioneer, December 20th

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3ERQ	KC6VLV	N3QMV	N4MIS	Silent Keys
AA3JS	KB3FNM	KD3JV	N3RDV	NP2JF	K3EED
AB3AB	KB3FQT	KE3XB	N3RHT	N8DPW	N3KEH
K3BZW	KB3FZU	KE7FD	N3RNX	W3GEL	N3OBD
K3LIE	KB3GMN	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3HND	N3SKR
K3OL	KB3GMO	KQ3DX	N3SRC	W3JAF	W3ZLK
K3VX	KB3GMP	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3RJM	
K3WR	KB3GMU	NØVLR	N3UE	W3RWS	Color Codes:
K9LZ	KB3GOT	NØWVP	N3UIV	W3SRL	2003 Member
KA3PPH	KB3GZG	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3VE	2002 Member
KA3TFB	KB3GUZ	N3AWF	N3WPT	W3VFA	2001 Member
KA3TWI	KB3HFP	N3BSQ	N3XFE	W3WH	2000 Member
KA3UPY	KB3HVN	N3CZZ	N3XI	W4ZE	
KA3WZO	KB3IAC	N3FZ	N3YPB	WA3JPP	
KA3YTS	KB3IJX	N3HKQ	N3YQY	WB3BPH	
KB3ANH	KB3IRQ	N3IDH	N3ZCG	WB3GTL	
KB3CPI	KB3IVV	N3INT	N3ZEG	WN3BOJ	
KB3DCO	KB3IVX	N3KFD	N3ZEH	WN3VAW	
KB3ENX	KB3QX	N3MJQ	N3ZEL		
KB3EPI	KC2JJB	N3PN	N3ZNI	Barbara Misis	

Through December 31st, 2002

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2002 WASH Christmas/Holiday Party Photos!



Above, Left, Below:
There were so many members guests at the party that we're not even going to try and identify them all, we know we're going to get quite a few wrong!
Thanks again to Carol KB3GMN for all of her hard work & efforts to organize the party, and to Carol and Jacqué N3ZEL for their efforts to organize and get prizes for the "Chinese" Auction.



Above: Paul NØVLR presents Steve W3SRL with his WASH "Clean Sweep" award, for his part as one of the operators of N3SH/Clarion in the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party.
Below: Paul showing off his Certificate of Appreciation, bestowed on him as outgoing WASH President, by returning President Ron WN3VAW



All photos on this page taken by Ron or Julie Notarius, and are courtesy of and ©2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW



Building a Contest Station

Roy Goshorn W3TEF courtesy of the Nittany ARC *NARC Newsette*

It began with the purchase of mountaintop property 100 miles East of Pittsburgh on top of Wopsonnock Mountain in the Allegheny Mountains by W3YOZ. The location is not far from his hometown of Altoona, PA. Those three acres are now the home of W3SO, a competitive Limited-Multi (LM) VHF contest station in grid square FNØØ.

The evolving project, which has taken the better part of seven years, is a labor of love for the property owner W3YOZ, Martin Johnson, and a half a dozen or so fellow contesters from the Baltimore-Washington-Altoona area.

Beginning with portable Field Day-type equipment and operating from tents using the call W3YOZ, experienced VHF'ers KA3EJJ, KC3EK and N3CDY, and some top notch PVRC (Potomac Valley Radio Club) operators found the site to be a good one for VHF communications, and being in the rare grid of FNØØ [*editor's note: "rare" FNØØ includes all of Allegheny County east of Point State Park*] has also helped. (In VHF contests the multiplier is the number of unique grid squares worked on each band.) Since then, the group has learned that the site is also good for Sweepstakes, Field Day, and the PA QSO Party contests. The Wopsonnock Mountaintop Operators got their own call, W3SO, in May 200.

Today the QTH has a permanent two room wooden building with all the features of a home shack, name electricity, a full bath, and a kitchen! Because of the round the clock nosie from the various operations taking placed during a contest, the group stays either at local member W3Tef's home or at a motel for a good nights rest.

Although the building was contractor built, all the communications engineering and construction is the work of W3YOZ and others, some of which are seasoned operators and others that are new to ham radio. They all are dedicated to the "love of contest." And contesting they do, participating in the January, June and September ARRL VHF, and the July CQ VHF Contests.

When configurd for VHF, there are now six operating positions, one each for 50, 144, 222, & 432 MHz. The fifth is for 146 MHz FM and the sixth is a spare. Currently the 50, 144 and 432 MHz operators are in one room, and the 222 and 146 FM operators are in a larger room that also house the kitchen and a small storage-workshop area.

W3SO began by operating with low power VHF rigs and has evolved to now operating with an ICOM 756PRO on 50 MHz, an ICOM 746PRO on 144 MHz, a classic ICOM IC-375A and 130 W Mirage brick on 222 MHz, and a Yaesu FT-736R on 432 MHz. On 50, 144 and 432 MHz, Lunar-Link Systems amplifiers provide 1.5 kW PEP output. To help the operators dig out the weak signals, SSB Electronics pre-ams are used.

Being on a mountaintop means that the receivers are susceptible to a lot of oout of band signals, especially from "paging" systems. Also the transmitters at one position may interfere with a receiver at another position. To combat these problems, in addition to using good receivers, all signals are routed through DCI filters to eliminate or reduce the interference.

At the 50, 144, 222 & 432 MHz positions are 486 computers with DOS running the CT contest software. The CT software does the logging, checking for duplicate conntacts, and after the contest has ended, CT prepares the necessary log and forms required by contest sponsors. A planned station upgrade is to network the computers. Currently the operators use paper slips to inform each other of stations that are being moved from one band to another, and each band's listening or pass frequency.

Initially the antennas were small beams on 50 feet high Field Day type masts. Today there are five towers. This year, in the time between the January and June ARRL VHF contests, coax runs to all antennas were replaced with half inch or 7/8 inch hardline, resulting in W3SO's highest contest score yet.

The VHF antennas today consist of a seven element C3I beam on 50 MHz at 70 feet, a 10 element M2 beam on 222 MHz at 85 feet, and a 25 element C3I beam on 432 MHz at 95 feet. For 2m FM QSO's W3SO has a Diamond vertical mounted on a telephone pole at 30 feet, also fed with hardline.

As with all evolving projects like this, everything is interim, antenna wise, and plans are already well in the works for higher gain VHF beams on the taller towers. W3YOZ and W3TEF handle the majorith of the installation and erection of the towers and antennas.

W3SO participates in the January, June and September ARRL VHF contests as a limited-multi, that is W3SO operates four VHF bands (50 MHz, 144 MHz, 222 MHz and 432 MHz [*editor's note: 432 is a UHF band*]), using SSB, CW and FM modes). For the CQ July VHF contest, W3SO, with W3TEF as the sole operator, enters in the single-operator categor (50 MHz and 144 MHz using SSB and CW modes).

The Trucker & The NY Cop

George McGrath KG4UOC courtesy of www.qrz.com

On October 27th, 2002, on or about 1100 EST, I was pulled over by a New York Department of Transportation officer for a "routine" vehicle inspection. I drive a "big rig". The officer could not find anything wrong with my truck or paperwork. However, during the time he was passing my paperwork back to me, he wanted to ask about my "scanner" which he noticed on my dashboard.

I indicated to him that it was not a scanner, but rather a ham radio. He asked if it was "capable" of receiving police frequencies, and I said that it was. He then said that it was classified as an "authorized police receiver"; for which, he wrote a ticket for a misdemeanor offense. He said that he would not take me to jail, which he could have done. I was grateful for that. I found out later that he could have also impounded my truck and booked me. I was asked to "disable" the radio from operation. This I did. It is costing me \$500 in legal fees to be represented in court.

I had placed my ham call letters on the side of my truck, in the same way a vanity license plate would display ham call letters, since you can not display a vanity plate on a commercial vehicle. I believe this is what the officer was "pinging" on. He saw my call letters and an alarm went off.

In August 2002, I obtained my first ham license and was hopeful it would open up a whole new field of radio enthusiasm for me. I have met some new friends and acquaintances through ham radio.

I purchased a Yaesu 7100, 2M/440 dual band, mobile FM transceiver, hopefully being able to use it in my truck as I travel from state-to-state, meeting new friends, and passing emergency information. I feel this incident comes as a "blow" to all ham radio operators that operate mobile in the 2 Meter spectrum, since these radios are "capable" of monitoring police frequencies.

I don't consider myself a renegade, or rebel. Placed in responsible hands, a ham radio can be quite a good thing. It is just like a car, "capable" of doing speeds in excess of 100 MPH. A responsible person would know this, and use the vehicle responsibly. I feel the same way about my radio.

If you know of a NATIONAL OR FEDERAL rule or law which exempts ham radio operators from this offense, due to the nature of their equipment, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Editor's Note: Courtesy of W4KSR, the New York State law that was applied appears to be "Section 397. EQUIPPING MOTOR VEHICLES WITH RADIO RECEIVING SETS CAPABLE OF RECEIVING SIGNALS ON THE FREQUENCIES ALLOCATED FOR POLICE USE," the full text of which can be found on the web via a good search engine. Amateur Radio licenses appear to be exempted from this law. In addition, courtesy of KB5ZEA, FCC PR Docket 91-36 is a Federal pre-emption that also appears to exempt all Amateur operators from state anti-scanner laws of this sort when applied to Amateur VHF/UHF transceivers that are capable of receiving outside the Amateur bands; the complete text can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/pr91-36/pr91-36.html>. PLEASE check with legal representation should you ever need to apply these or similar exemptions!

Stock for Leap Wireless (parent of Cricket Communications) was de-listed on NASDAQ on December 11th. They have been having financial difficulty for months, and rumors of a possible bankruptcy filing have surfaced. It is not known if or how this will affect current Cricket customers, or those leasing cell tower space to Cricket — such as our friends in the Steel City Amateur Radio Club W3KWH.

The station is becoming a "player" in HF contesting too. During HF contesting operations, W3SO uses a combination of an ICOM 746PRO and Alpha 89 to drive either a three element Create 20m beam at 65 feet, or an array of dipoles and slopers customized for either CW or SSB on each band. For 160m, an inverted L or inverted V is used. The longer range plans are to upgrade the HF antenna systems. The HF contests that W3SO is currently active in are: ARRL 160m, Sweepstakes, Field Day, and PA QSO Party. In the future, the operators plan on entering the ARRL 10m contest.

For ARRL and CQ club competition contests, W3SO is one of the PVRC entries. Current operators of the station consist of K4VV, WR3Z, AI3M, K3IXD, K3RUQ, W3PAW, W9NET, W3TEF and W3YOZ. Occasional operators are WX3B, N3SB, W3BZN, KD3SA and WB3EFQ.

In contests, look for W3SO, we would like to have you in our log. We are glad to provide grid square FN00 and Blair County. If you are working awards, id VUCC, County Hunting, and/or WAS, we do QSL 100% to all cards received. W3TEF is the QSL manager, K3IXD handles the electronic QSLs and also he electronically submits the logs.

Section Staff Restructuring

John Rodgers N3MSE, WPA Section Manager, ARRL

Effective immediately, the following changes in the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Staff have been implemented:

Jeff Leach N3YEA will move from his position as DEC of W. Pa. to Assistant Section Manager, as my chief Assistant for Operations. Jeff will assist me at hamfests and will also be available to speak at club meetings. Jeff will continue to conduct the Emergency communications courses and will work to further the training and promotion of these programs.

Sally Cripe N3MYZ will serve as Assistant Section Manager in Administrative areas. She will help with solving member and club problems. She will also be helping at hamfests and in the preparation of section meetings.

Tony Petrucelli KE3ED will now be responsible for digital and data modes. He will assist individuals and groups in the promotion of such things as packet, sstv, psk31, aprs, etc. Tony will also work to promote the use of these and other digital and data modes.

Bruce Watson AA3LX continues as the Assistant Section Manager for youth and education. Bruce will work with young people and school groups to form clubs. Bruce will also develop and prepare various training programs for use in the section. Ideas for topics may be sent to aa3lx@arll.net Several programs have already been developed such as NTS handling, Boy scout merit badge and a refresher course for the EMComm 1 program.

Rich Beaver N3SRJ remains as the Section Emergency Coordinator. Rich will be the leader of the ARES program. Rich will be responsible for the ARES operation in the section. He will be responsible for the appointments in the DEC, EC and OES positions. The DEC's for S-1, S-2, N-1, N-1 and rapid response will report directly to Rich. Rich will make all appointments in this capacity. He will also be responsible to insure that all EC's and DEC's make monthly reports no later than the 8th of the month to him so that he can forward his report to ARRL Headquarters and the Section Manager by the 10th or 12th of each month. Rich will also work with the STM to bring the ARES and NTS groups into a close working relationship. With the STM they will plan the yearly Simulated Emergency Test.

Bob Livrone N3WAV will continue in his capacity as Section Traffic Manager. Bob will coordinate the various groups in the National Traffic System in the section. Bob will be responsible for the appointment of net managers and official relay stations. He will also collect and forward monthly reports to HQ and section manager of station activity, public service honor role and net reports. Bob will also work with the SEC to bring the ARES and NTS groups into a close working relationship. With the SEC they will plan the yearly Simulated Emergency Test.

Tony Zona WB3KGT will replace **Norma Vanderhoff W3CG** as the Public Information Coordinator. Tony will handle media interaction as well as any PR issues that may affect a wide area of the section. Tony brings with him years of experience in ARES operations and also in the news and publication field.

My thanks to Norma for her service and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

Ralph Ofchinick W3ZPI remains as the Official Observer Coordinator. He is responsible for the management of the FCC amateur auxiliary in the section.

Jim Salter WR4W will also continue in his role as Technical Coordinator. Jim will be responsible for assisting in technical matters in the section.

Dave Kleber KB3FXI will be taking on the position of Bulletin & Information Manager. This will be developed through the use of various electronic media to quickly disseminate information of use to the members of the section. Dave is currently the owner-manager of the PA Sit-Rep web site and will be making several services available for information.



Hidden Threats to Amateur Radio?

Brett Wynkoop WA3YRE courtesy of www.qrz.com

There are many things a foot that can harm Ham Radio's future that most hams are not aware of. One of the "silent enemies" of Ham Radio is the current move by the entertainment cartel in the United States to force Digital Restriction Management on the American public by act of Congress and FCC rule making.

In the world envisioned by the MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America) and the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) there are 2 classes of citizens, those that can have full general purpose computers (MPAA & RIAA members) and the rest of the world. Among the restrictions that these folks are trying to impose is the outlawing of ANALOG to DIGITAL CONVERTERS.

I was at a Department of Commerce hearing on DRM on July 17th, 2002 when Jack Valenti stood up and told all assembled that there was a need to "Plug the analog hole" to prevent unauthorized digitizing of analog signals. On behalf of New Yorkers for Fair Use (www.nyfairuse.org) I disagreed with the entire premiss of DRM that the panel was discussing and pointed out that it would prevent innovation and would stagnate progress. After this meeting, the MPAA and RIAA lobbyist and their congressional puppets decided to approach forcing DRM on the American public by way of FCC rule making. There is a current NPRM (02-230) for the so called "Broadcast Flag" that if enacted would be backed with the force of law under the DMCA (<http://www.nyfairuse.org/dmca.xhtml>) and would effectively put an end to software defined radio projects such as GNU Radio (<http://www.gnu.org/software/gnuradio/gnuradio.html>).

If the entertainment cartel gets their way and is allowed to castrate all digital devices not owned by them there will be an end to development of new forms of digital communications and signal processing by anyone that is not part of the entertainment industry. Tinkering on software to enhance communications could be a felony for Hams located in the United States.

Please get educated on what is going on by visiting the New Yorkers For Fair Use web site at <http://www.nyfairuse.org/>

MS-DOS Is Dead. Now What?

If you or someone you know are still using a computer running any flavor of MS-DOS 6.22 or earlier, or Windows 95, or Windows 3.11 or earlier, you have a problem. Microsoft has decreed that each of these products has reached it's end of life and will no longer be supported in any way after 31 December 2002.

This is a real concern for many amateurs who have long run their older computers in their shacks to do logging, packet, PSK-31, and other tasks that do not require the horsepower of today's latest and greatest machines. Many contesters who still swear by DOS based contest logging programs like CT 9.x and earlier also have a real worry, since the lack of support means no help in getting printer or video drivers to work, and implies that existing patches, fixes, technical notes, and other resources that had been available on Microsoft's web site will be removed.

The "DOS Compatibility Box" that permitted many older MS-DOS programs to run within Windows 9x, ME, NT, or 2000 has undergone changes for Windows XP. There have been many complaints that XP "breaks" these programs or requires extensive tweaking in order to make them run in some fashion.

Many amateurs have been turning to one of the many flavors of Linux. However, this does not always help as many applications (especially older ones) may not run well under Linux, and again, drivers and other software applications are not always available. And IBM seems to have buried OS/2 for good years ago.

The good news is that there is an alternative — and it's free. MS-DOS may be dead, but DR-DOS lives!

DR-DOS was originally developed by Digital Research, and is the direct descendant of Gary Kildall's CP/M & CP/M-86, the first "mass marketed" operating systems for home computers (that was itself the inspiration for QDOS, the original version of MS-DOS 1.0). Now owned by **DeviceLogics** and still in development, DR-DOS 7.03 is available for free download from various sites, including <http://www.drDOS.net/download.htm>. Unlike most versions of MS-DOS 6.22 and earlier, DR-DOS 7.0x is fully "Y2K Compliant." And some download versions include the **Personal Netware** add-on for home peer-to-peer networking (DR-DOS was marketed as Novell DOS during the time that Digital Research was a subsidiary of Novell).

DR-DOS 8.0 is due out in the Spring of 2003.

You can also learn more at The Official DR-DOS Web Site at www.drDOS.com.

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.

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 .

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 2003 on February 23rd!

DX News Briefs



PA3GIO will be hopping around much of the Pacific this month.

On January 10th, he will be **ZL1/PA3GIO** on Waiheke Island OC-201. He will then be QRV as **ZK2GI** on Niue Island OC-040 from January 18 – 26, running 100 Watts to a doublet antenna, SSB only. QSL via e-mail! (preferred) to

qsl@pa3gio.nl (no attachments) or via the bureau. And you can find out the latest information about his Dxpeditions by visiting <http://www.pa3gio.nl> or <http://www.qsl.net/pa3gio> — PA3GIO, N3KFD

JARL Bureau Fees: The JARL QSL Bureau will start charging every JARL member an annual fee of ¥3600 (approximately \$30) for "each and every" non-Japanese call sign that is sent through the bureau. This includes DX stations managed by JA hams, and JA calls with foreign prefixes, such as KH2/JJ1BDX and F/JJ1BDX/p. This change is effective 7 July 2003. It is unknown what the impact will be on DX calls managed by JA stations — JARL News, JJ1BDX

Because of a 750% increase in the cost of PO Boxes, many Argentine hams and organizations are dropping their PO Boxes. Please verify that an Argentine address is up to date & valid before sending mail to a PO Box — WBØWAO

W4SON is way behind his QSL chores from **9N1SON & 9N7SON**, but please be patient and don't send duplicate QSL cards. Jack prefers to ragchew rather than work pileups, and most of his logs are hand written and need to be entered into a computer database to help simplify & speed up the QSL chores — K14RU

"KJ6OW is NOT the manager for any stations. HE IS a MAILDROP for some EZ Turkmenistan stations. A mail drop requires an SASE and \$1— \$2 for mail costs between countries. Registered mail is used by KJ6OW both directions. Submissions without SASE and \$\$, go in the trash. No free rides for registered mail costs." — W7KEU via K14RU

Look for **V31JZ/p** from South Water Caye, Belize NA-180 January 17th –20th. This will be mainly CW, 40 – 10, 100 Watts & simple antennas. No schedules, no on-line logs. QSL via NN7A — VA3RJ

The **RZ3AA** team has processed 2769 card for **K1B** through the end of 2002; 2205 mailed, 77 via WF5E, 654 via the bureau. They also have produced two lists: Those who have complained that they sent cards, but the cards never arrived; and those whose requests arrived opened and pilfered of money and/or IRC's. As a result, a change in handling future K1B SSB QSL requests cards may soon be announced — VE3EXY

N8Z is currently QRV from the WP2Z QTH on St. Croix through January 8th, 160 – 6 meters. QSL via WZ8D — VA3RJ, N8Z, 425 DX

CE9R South Shetlands will be QRV all month. QSL via CE3HDI. — VA3RJ

RU1ZC will be staying at Mirny Base in Antarctica as **R1ANZ** through 2004. He has a daily sked home on 14.160 at 1530 Z. — VA3RJ

One of the world's best QSL managers, **KU9C**, has changed his official mailing address. The old address will be closed for good in early 2003, and forwarding will only last a few months. PLEASE use only his new address: Steve Wheatley KU9C, POB 31, Morristown NJ 07963-0031 — KU9C

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

Mid-December showed a lot of activity from "**T33AA**." Experienced DX'ers reported via the packet cluster spots that this is a Pirate — W6TER, W3UR

QSL Routes

5KØDZ via DH7WW — K9OL
5WØIR via DJ2MX — KDØAL
9J2BO via G3TEV — KDØAL
9Q1A & 9Q1YL via F2YT — WØVD
A92GE Direct Only, NOT via K4SXT — K4SXT, WØØXJ
C98DC via DL7AFS — K4RES
CE9R via CE3HDI — VA3RJ
CV1F via EA5KB — CX8FB
CY9DH via W7XU — W9OL
DU9/NØNM via W4DR — KE9KD
FG5FC via F6DZU — N2KX
FS/K7ZUM via K7ZUM — W9OL
H44XX via VK1AA — N5ZM
J6/VK2IR via DJ2MX — KDØAL

J77C via PA5ET — W9OL
KH9/N6MZ via N4XP — W9OL
N8Z via WZ8D — N8Z
SW1W via SV1CIB — SV1DPI
V31JZ via NN7A — VA3RJ
V73GJ via KA1GJ — N4TJ
P4ØAV via K4AVQ — VA3RJ
SØ7L via EA4URE — W8GC
TZ6VV via KBØVV — W9OL
VP5NN via NN6NN — VA3RJ
XT2DX via G3SXW — WA9YYY
XU7ACB via N6FF — K4KU, W8GC
XW1IC via E21EIC — WØVD
ZL4/G4EDG via G4EDG — ZL4HU
ZP6T via ZP5MAL — W2IRT

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

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An FCC Administrative Law Judge has given preliminary approval to renewing the amateur license of reformed former computer hacker Kevin Mitnick N6NHG. His license renewal has been under review in view of his felony conviction on interception of electronic communications, computer fraud and wire fraud.

In the *Initial Decision*, Richard L. Sippel wrote that "there is reliable evidence that Mr. Mitnick has focused on becoming an honest, productive citizen and that he has the means to continue to do so.

Unless exceptions are raised within 30 days or the FCC reviews the ruling on it's own motion, Sippel's decision becomes effective 50 days after it's release — *ARRL Web Extra*

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 five years!

FCC News

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

NEWINGTON, CT, December 20th, 2002 — The FCC has sent a *Warning Notice* to the owner of the K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater system in California's San Francisco Bay area citing "numerous rule violations" on the machine since last April. In a November 26 letter, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth reminded repeater owner Bruce Wachtell, K7IJ, of his responsibility to ensure proper control of his repeater. Almost four years ago, the FCC shut down the Grizzly Peak repeater after it determined the system was out of control of the licensee and his designated control operator.



"Since the repeater bears your call sign, it is important for you to understand that you are responsible for its proper operation," Hollingsworth told Wachtell, whose residence is in Carson City, Nevada. "The decision to operate a repeater is a totally voluntary one. Repeaters are a convenience in the Amateur Radio Service, not a necessity." Hollingsworth said repeater control operators "must ensure immediate proper operation" of the system, regardless of the type of station control. If Wachtell cannot regain control of his repeater, then he must shut it down, Hollingsworth concluded.

Violations cited included failure of users to identify--or to identify correctly, intentional interference from "certain users," use of the repeater by unlicensed operators and "lengthy carriers and key-ups."

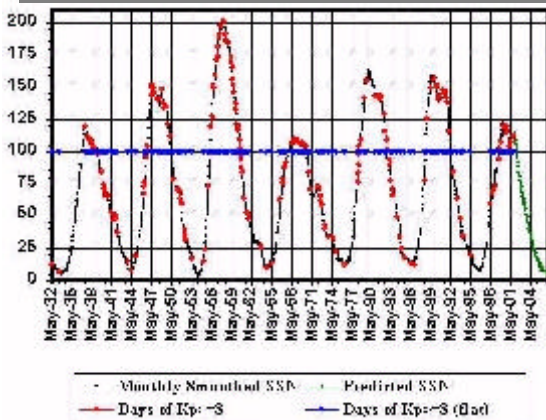
Hollingsworth told Wachtell that he must prevent recurring and deliberate violations on his repeater by locking out rulebreakers, using CTCSS tones, warning users, limiting the operation of the repeater or "taking whatever steps necessary" as a station licensee to bring it into compliance.

"If you are unwilling or unable to prevent violations on your K7IJ repeater, then your operator and station licenses will be subject to enforcement action by the Commission," warned Hollingsworth, who raised the specter of fines, suspension and license revocation.

Following the 1999 Grizzly Peak shutdown, the FCC negotiated a settlement with Wachtell and K7IJ control operators that provided for a "live, real-time control operator" at all times. The earlier shutdown followed complaints that the control operator routinely allowed unlicensed individuals to use the repeater and that he and others engaged in prohibited practices on the air. A five-point "K7IJ Repeater Agreement" required control ops to configure an audio stream to let the FCC monitor the system's repeaters at all times. Additionally, stations not known to the control operator were to identify at the beginning of their transmissions, not just after 10 minutes.

In an unrelated repeater case, Hollingsworth sent a *Warning Notice* December 4th to Wayne Curley, WA6NRB, who operates a repeater in the Los Angeles area. Hollingsworth cited monitoring information that the repeater has been used by an unlicensed individual, Richard Burton, ex-WB6JAC. Burton spent three months in a federal jail last year after being convicted of unlicensed operation. As he had done with Wachtell, Hollingsworth reminded Curley that a repeater licensee is responsible for recurring violations and that enforcement action — fines, suspension or revocation — could result if he is unable to prevent violations on his repeater.

Herb Schoenbohm ex-KV4FZ, who was relicensed last year as NP2MJ (following the loss of his license due to character issues raised by the FCC on his renewal, related to his criminal conviction on telephone fraud) has regained KV4FZ as a vanity call — ARRL Web Site



Cycle 19 was the highest in history.

Our current Cycle 23 is about to start its downward slope.

It's not over yet, but we have maybe 18 months of real fun before the time to work on antennas for the next cycle.

Enjoy it now!

Courtesy of Bob Reed W2CE

Chart Image is Copyrighted (c) 2002 by

Solar Terrestrial Dispatch, available on the web at <http://www.spacew.com/swim/bigstorm.html>. May be used if copyright notice is retained.

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 ↓)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec	
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____ License Class: _____

City, State: _____ Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company"

Embroidered Shirts and Hats

Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost
				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 Photos!**
- Announcing **WASHFest 2003!**
- Complete Rules for the 3rd Annual **WASH** Two Meter Contest — not just FM this year!
- **DOS is Dead... isn't it?**
- **"But Officer! I have an FCC License!"**
- **WPA Section Leadership Changes!**

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



“Unveiling the Banner!”

Dan KB3HVN and Paul NØVLR unveiled the new WASH Banner at the 2002 Christmas/Holiday Party at *Al's Cafe*, as Kevin N3HKQ and all of the other club members and guests looked on.

We'll be displaying the banner at public functions the club participates in from now on, so that everyone knows who we are!

More photos from the Christmas/Holiday party inside!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

The WASHRag

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



N3SH / WA3SH
www.washarc.org

2 Meter Contest This Month!
Complete Rules Page 8!