



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 5 Issue 6

June 2003

N3SH
WA3SH
WP2AIQ

Wireless Association of South Hills

Field Day 2003 Wrap-Up

We've all survived Field Day 2003!

We were blessed with wonderful weather but were plagued by terrible propagation conditions. Last year the SSB positions made about twice as many contacts as the CW guys. This year it was just the opposite. Last year PSK -31 was productive but this year there were hardly any signals heard.

Despite the disappointment of poor propagation, lots of Club members came and enjoyed the event and each other's company. Naturally we had plenty to eat courtesy of Carol Danko, KB3GMN, ably assisted by Richie, N3SBF and Chef Gary, KB3GUZ. Also Hank's better half Mary Lou and Shirley KB3GMP and others itched in to keep us all fed and watered.

We also had some nice publicity for the club thanks to an interview on Newsradio KQV Saturday afternoon (arranged thanks to Joe Fenn WB3AGB and Kevin DeRose N3KFD), and a WPXI TV interview for the Saturday evening & Sunday morning newscasts (thanks Frank KB3FZU Bobro & Lori Trebik KB3GMU). Great publicity for the club and for Amateur Radio in the Pittsburgh area!

And finally, let's not forget to give a big "thank you!" to the **Library Sportsmen's Association** for granting us permission to once again operate from on top of their grounds outside of Library. The site is fabulous, and we hope that they enjoyed having us around as much as we enjoyed being there!



Shawn's View

Shawn Djernes NØPEU, President
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Have you ever been shopping for a radio or piece of equipment and wondered how well it would work for you? Like everyone else who plans a purchase I spent much time reading reviews, manufacturer web sites, and talking to other people.

Back in March I had decided that I would be in the market for a new handheld radio this year at Dayton. I knew the basic requirements such as it should be multi-band and have wide coverage receive. With this information I started to read literature and reviews of my options. Very quickly my choices were limited to the Kenwood TH-F6A or the Yaesu VX-7. The radio being replaced was a Yaesu Ft-50RD, which I had been using for about 6 years. I had got used to it's menus and function key assignments for most things but the menu was hard to use because you number knew where you were when you entered it and what the value of the option was. Now for the average user this would not be a problem, but when you can't read the screen, that is a problem.

Most people are limited to calling the sales staff at a local Ham Shop or maybe getting through to the sales department of the manufacture. Up till now that was how I was limited to shopping. Well this year I was able to go to the Dayton Hamvention and talk to both sales and technical people from Kenwood and Yaesu and a few others. Most important I was able to play with the radio and have someone who could answer questions. I thought the manufactures would all be more than willing to help me figure out how to use their products.

(NØPEU Continued on page 5)

**WRC-03 40 Meter
News — Page 8**

73, Larry Comden K3VX
& Bill Hill W3WH
WASH Field Day 2003

**REMEMBER! MEETING LOCATION:
PETERS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY**

Next Meeting: July 10th, 2003

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, July 10th, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 6:30 PM.

Field Day wrap-up, and plans for the rest of the summer are currently on the agenda... but you never know...

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RN/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

**July & August
NCS Stations:**

07/06 Michael KB3HFP
07/13 Bill W3WH
07/20 Paul NØVLR
07/27 Hank KB3FNM

08/03 Bell Family
08/10 Kevin N3HKQ
08/17 Carol KB3GMN
08/24 Michale KB3HFP
08/31 Bill W3WH


Alternates & Backups
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:**

- Skyview Hamfest August 24th
- WPA Section Convention September 7th

July 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 SHBP & M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop	2 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co SKYWarm Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	3 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net		5 RA Erie VE Test WPA Hilltoppers VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
6 Ellwood City ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	7 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co PS Net	8 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop	9 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	10 WASH Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Mtg Horseshoe ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	11	12 Skyview RS VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
North Hills ARC Hamfest QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	14 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Mtg Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co PS Net	15 Steel City ARC Mtg. Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop	16 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarm Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	17 WASH VE Test Somerset Co ARC Mtg Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	18 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC Meeting	Pgh Vintage Grand Prix Mercer Co ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
Pgh Vintage Grand Prix Elk Co ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	21 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co PS Net	22 Triangle ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop	23 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	24 Uniontown ARC Net	25	26 WASH Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
27 QCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	28 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co PS Net	29 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop	30 Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES	31 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	8/1 Elco ARS Meeting	8/2 RA Erie VE Test BVARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net

WASH 2003 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Shawn Djernes NØPEU
VP / Secretary Frank Bobro KB3FZU
VP / Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL
WP2AIQ Trustee Paul Jordan NP2JF
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

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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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 Shawn Djernes NØPEU for providing space on-line for back issues of **"The WASHRag™"** which can be found at www.washarc.org or www.djernes.org/washrag

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test July 17th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 17th, 2003, 6:30 PM**, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, 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, October 16th, 2003
Thursday, January 15th, 2004
Thursday, April 15th, 2004
Thursday, July 15th, 2004

Nextel is currently attempting to trademark law to prevent competitors from using the phrase "Push To Talk" (PTT) to describe rival service offerings.

Some question how successful this will be considering that PTT has been a "generic" radio communications term since the 1940's or even earlier... just check your old Heath & Collins manuals, ARRL handbooks, or QST's!



"I have a new addition to my family"
— Mike N3BSQ has proudly announced the arrival of William Anthony Serowik, born 11 June 2003 at 1535 Z (11:35 AM)

Congratulations Mike!

Beware Solicitations!

If you receive an email or a phone call offering to sell you **QST**, **CQ**, **Popular Electronics**, or a subscription to some other communications-related publication, think twice before agreeing to it.

The publishers of these magazines have all indicated in recent weeks that someone is perpetuating a scam to "sell" these magazines as a ruse to get a hold of your credit card numbers. All indicate that no one is authorized to sell the subscriptions at a discount — and you will never receive a magazine from them this way. Further, **Popular Electronics** ceased publication months ago, and the **ARRL** does not sell subscriptions to **QST** to individuals, you can only get the magazine (it's official Journal) by joining the League.

If you should receive such a solicitation, do NOT give the solicitor any credit card numbers. Instead, get as much information as you can from them, and then contact the publisher of the appropriate publication to forward the information for eventual use by law enforcement to find, stop, and/or prosecute those perpetuating this fraud.

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** got together on May 31st. In attendance were N3SBF, KB3GMN, their granddaughter Alyssa, KB3CPI, KB3GOT, W3RWS, KB3GMP, N3ZEL, N3ZNI, W4ZE, N3IDH, WO3Z, KB3FNM and Mary Lou, and WN3VAW and Jessie. Plans for the Breezeshooter's Hamfest picnic the next day, Field Day, DX, contest operating, antennas, mobiles, and the Bratz dolls (that was Alyssa and Jessie) were among the many topics.

The gang also got together on June 28th (Field Day Saturday AM) at Freddie's Restaurant, Route 88 @ Logan Road in Bethel Park, right down the road from the FD site (**Dietz's** hasn't reopened yet). As of deadline, we were unable to get a roster of participants (hope to have that next issue) but it's safe to say that Field Day was no doubt the main topic of conversation!

The next Club Breakfast will be returning to the **Ponderosa Steakhouse**, Wal Mart Plaza, Route 19 & Murland Avenue, Washington, on July 26th, then back to **Dietz's Restaurant** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, on August 30th (assuming they've reopened by then!) See you there!

Repeater woes: Brett N3BV is planning some changes to the 443.650 repeater system. A variety of issues, including some liability concerns at the repeater site, general maintenance and lease issues there, and an extremely high electric bill, originally had him planning to pull the plug on the machine at the beginning of July. Brett came out to Field Day and updated us that he is looking at alternatives, including moving the machine to another location that will lessen some of his worries. Stay tuned for further information!

Antenna woes: Ted W4ZE informed us at Field Day that he was recently contacted by his local zoning officer. Despite assurances that were made to him when he bought the property, he has now been informed that under current zoning rules, he is not permitted any antenna with a height greater than **15 feet**, and has been told to remove his antennas, make them compliant, or face a hefty daily fine. Ted protested that his 15+ acre parcel is zoned commercial (there used to be a mine there) and cited PRB-1; the response was that they don't believe PRB-1 will apply because they successfully fought against a proposed cell tower (and yes, we know it's a different radio service and different rules, but they don't know — or care). Ted is planning to get an attorney and appeal to the zoning board, which will cost him a non-refundable \$300 filing fee, plus the attorney's fees. Stay tuned for this one, too!

NY State Mobile woes: There have been a lot of reports on **eHam.net** and **QRZ.COM** about amateurs who have been stopped by NY State Troopers and cited for having "scanners" in their vehicles capable of receiving police and other public safety frequencies. Reports also indicate that the law in question actually has a provision exempting FCC licensed amateurs, but that the troopers either are not aware of this or don't know how to apply it (or don't care). One amateur reports going to court to protest his ticket, with a copy of the applicable law, and other relevant documents, only to be told he is pleading innocent, there will be a trial, and to get a lawyer. Stay tuned for more information on that one... and let's hope our NNY Outpost is careful up there!

2002 ARRL 10 Meter Contest results are now out. In Class A (mixed mode), new member WO3Z took the medium power division, with WN3VAW placing 3rd. Friend-of-club AD8J took Class A High Power. Former member N3WAV took Class B (phone only), medium power. W4ZE placed 2nd in Class B, high power. K3VX placed fifth in Class C (CW only), medium power, and friend-of-club N3FR placed second in that same category. Overall, the club placed 12th in the Local category in the Affiliated Club competition (just think what we'd have done if more club members had entered their scores, or WO3Z had been a member then, or...) Well done all!

Farewell & safe journeys to come: He's threatened to do it for years, but Al KA3UPY has finally retired from teaching! The house in Crafton is sold and Al & Carol will soon be relocating to FL — and plan to spend a lot of time boating around the Caribbean! Good luck Al, and please upgrade to General so we can all work you on HF as you two cruise & visit the all of the islands!

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

Minutes, May 8th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/ Secretary, WASH

Shawn, NØPEU, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 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 to **accept the minutes** of the May meeting as published in the May newsletter. It was made by Ed, N3ZNI, and seconded by Carol, KB3GMN. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): reported & accepted.

Secretary (KB3FZU): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session will hold on the third Thursday in July.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): Pete, N3RNX, is arranging to take off the tones for the Sunday Night Net.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): The Net Control Stations have been scheduled through June. Kevin, N3HKQ, is working on the July through September schedules.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): The 50/50 will be held after the meeting.

Public Service (N3RDV): The Vintage Gran Prix was discussed; see Mark, N3RDV, if you need information.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): No Report.

President's Report (NØPEU): No Report, trying to ready computers for field day.

Old Business:

Ted, W4ZE, obtained the bandpass filters at a show special price of \$475.

Mark, N3RDV, spoke with Shirley from the church. He paid the church for 1st quarter. He also indicated to her that due to the increase in the size of the group, we will no longer be using that location. She needs to get the keys that were given to the club back.

New Business: Field Day, reports Bill, W3WH, is two weeks away. We are planning to operate N3SH as class 4A including one digital, one CW and two SSB stations. We will also be operating a GOTA station, which will be worked under the WA3SH call sign. Our Field Day site will be at the Library Sportsman's Association on Route 88. It is a great location – the site boasts easy parking, elevation and our set up is close to the indoor restrooms.

The club breakfast will be held at Freddie's on Route 88 at Logan road at the normal time of 8 AM. We will then proceed to the Library Sportsman's Association to begin Field Day setup.

Ed, N3ZNI, and Jacque, N3ZEL, are again scrutinizing all of the rules so we can be sure to get all of the bonus points.

Kevin, N3KFD, is sending Field Day information to the media outlets.

Good of the Order: Thanks to Harold, KB3CPI, for getting the list of equipment together.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Bill, W3WH, and seconded by Carol, KB3GMN. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:02.

WASH Spotlight: W4ZE



It's pretty obvious here that SOME club members just had a little TOO much fun at Field Day! Caught, err, resting his eyes, Ted Huff W4ZE.

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Dan McCann KB3HVN.

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

Monthly WASH Breakfasts Saturday, July 26th

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-numbered months at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Baptist & Grove Roads in the Caste Village Shops, Whitehall.

Join us in ODD-numbered months at the **Ponderosa Steak House**, Wal-Mart Plaza, US Route 19 @ Murtland Road (just off Interstate 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!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3GMN	KD3JV	N3RDV	NP2JF	
AA3JS	KB3GMO	KE3XB	N3RHT	N8DPW	
AB3AB	KB3GMP	KE7FD	N3RNX	W3GEL	Silent Keys
K3BZW	KB3GMU	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3HND	K3EED
K3LIE	KA3GNT	KQ3DX	N3SRC	W3JAF	KB3FQT
K3OL	KB3GOT	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3RJM	N3KEH
K3VX	KB3GZG	NØVLR	N3UE	W3RWS	N3OBD
K3WR	KB3GUZ	NØWPV	N3UIW	W3SRL	N3SKR
K9LZ	KB3HFP	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3VE	W3ZLK
KA3PPH	KB3HVN	N3AWF	N3WPT	W3VFA	
KA3TFB	KB3IAC	N3BSQ	N3XFE	W3WH	Color Codes:
KA3TWI	KB3ICC	N3CZZ	N3XI	W4ZE	2003 Member
KA3UPY	KB3IJX	N3FZ	N3YPB	W8LEV	2002 Member
KA3WZO	KB3IRQ	N3HKQ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	2001 Member
KA3YTS	KB3IVW	N3IDH	N3ZCG	WB3BPH	2000 Member
KB3ANH	KB3IVX	N3INT	N3ZEG	WB3GTL	
KB3CPI	KB3JXJ	N3KFD	N3ZEH	WN3BOJ	
KB3DCO	KB3QX	N3MJQ	N3ZEL	WN3VAW	
KB3ENX	KC2JJB	N3PN	N3ZNI	WO3Z	
KB3EPI	KC6VLV	N3QMV	N4MIS	Barbara Misis	
KB3ERQ					
KB3FNM					
KB3FZU					

WASH Apparel Updates!

Dan KB3HVN & OGN Distributing are continuing to work on the upcoming web page link to permit WASH club members to order shirts, jackets, hats, and whatever direct from the club web page.

But in the meantime, if you still have one of the light blue SHARC "baseball" style windbreakers (these were the "2nd generation" jackets that Steve W3SRL handled the orders for, about 5 – 6 years ago) hanging in the closet collecting dust, good news! Dan has come up with a patch to "update" the jacket to the new WASH logo. Cost for the patch is \$9, and you will have a choice of either the "regular" or limited time "10th Anniversary" logos to choose from. The patch will be sewn directly onto the jacket; additional embroidery can be done if desired at a small additional cost.

For more information, contact Dan & OGN Distributing at 412-655-8787

Through June 30th, 2003

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

(NØPEU Continued from page 1)

Day one at Dayton was my planned purchase day for the radio, to the point that I did not even bring the charger for the old one with me. I started out by heading into the main arena and talking to Kenwood. As soon as I walked into the booth someone asked what I was looking for and I told him a new HT. He pointed me in the right direction and told the gentleman in front of the HT's that I needed help with them. Had to fight through a small crowd around the guy with the TH-F6A but once I got up to him and explained that I was low vision and was looking for a handheld and which one I was interested in. He turned on the TH-F6A and asked if I could see the text in the normal dual band mode. I told him yes but it was hard to make out. He then set the radio into single band mode and this doubled the frequency size on the display. I then asked him how to do some things from the keyboard of the radio since it had been a long time since I had last really played with a Kenwood. Most if not all things I would do on a regular basis can be set via one or two key presses. Of course there are some things that are just in the menu but I don't think I will have to change them often enough to make them important. It would be nice if they could cram a speech board in an HT or give us direct serial control but maybe they will do it in the future. I also talked to them about having speech in the mobiles and they said it was an option for all of the dual band units. This I thought was a good thing too.

Off to some forums and get a bite of lunch while still trying to find Yaesu. Well I finally found them and a blunt Japanese fellow attacks me and says "Yellow Card" so I lift up my ticket not knowing what exactly he wanted. I guess he stamped it and then he handed me a hat and disappeared. No, "Hi can I help you" or anything. So figuring their booth was probably setup the same way last year's was, I wandered to the left and instead of finding HT's I found mobiles and HF radios. So once I found a person I asked if any of the mobile radios could have a speech board installed. The guy rather bluntly told me "NO!"

Now this had me perturbed. He could have said "Not at this time" or something else but just the tone and bluntness did not set well with me. So I started asking why figuring I had the right people to ask being that they are the company representatives to the Ham Community. I got many I don't know and when I asked if they were planning on making it an option in any of the new radios to compete for the "Blind Ham's" dollars. All he said was "NO!"

Giving these guys the benefit of the doubt I thought they could be having a hectic day. So I asked this guy where the HT's were and he pointed and a guy beside me said they are on the other side of the booth. So I escaped the crowd around the FT-857 and got to the other side. I found another guy and asked him to see the VX-7R. He put it in my hand and I started to feel the controls, and made the same explanation about being low vision. When I started to ask him if the font could be enlarged because I really was having a problem even telling if the radio was on in the light of that room, he grabs it out of my hand and fiddles with it a bit and hands it back to me.

Now the font was bigger but nowhere the size it could have been if they took some of the other junk off the screen. Lots of little black blocks. But I thought I might be able to deal with this for having a command set similar to the radio I used before. Wrong answer, yes the menu was still mostly the same from what he told me but they hadn't made any of the functions easier to get to. So I started asking how to do things to see how hard they were and he kept telling me to "look at the screen". This was not going well. But the kicker was when I got lost in a menu and asked him how to get somewhere specific he said, "I don't know" and took the radio and started spinning the knob. I gave up then.

After that torturous experience I decided I had to think a bit and started walking around and asking for prices on both radios. As the day ended I had made up my mind on the Kenwood TH-F6A so I head back to the Arena to ask a few more questions of the gentlemen at Kenwood and they were just as nice as they were in the morning. So I ask him to recommend accessories, and off to AES I went to make my purchase.

I guess the moral or driving thought of this story is: Support the Vendors who are willing and able to support your needs. I still think Yaesu makes a good product but they need to figure out that not everyone can see a little tiny screen on a radio.

If It's Not a Contest, What Is It?

Ward Silver NØAX, Editor, ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

Ah, Field Day. It isn't supposed to be a contest, but how many of us got launched into this great sub-species of ham radio called "contesting" by learning at the elbow of a somewhat intimidating master operator in the (pick a band) meter tent working (pick a mode)? Remember that feeling of terror and exhilaration when after hours of watching he handed you the mike, key, or keyboard and said, "Here, take it for a while"? You...an instant band master!

Field Day was originally envisioned as an emergency test and training opportunity. That aspect lives on in the sheer process of collecting, hauling, installing, and activating tons of radio equipment and antenna hardware. Recent years have seen more and more class "E" emergency power stations and this year we have the new class "F" EOC stations. I took the opportunity to get our local EOC station (W7VMI) on the air for the first time. It was as much work as a "real" Field Day, pulling cables through conduit, putting up antennas, installing connectors, wondering why the radio that worked fine before didn't work now (and figuring it out), and making a few QSOs in the bargain.

What I like best, though, is that we're all equals at Field Day. Do you remember that first feeling of actually belonging and getting the hang of ham radio, even if just a little? There's nothing like that first late night bull session with the unshaven older guys drinking that muddy coffee and telling the most amazing stories while the generators putter and throb in the night and the lights in the radio tents dim in sync with each dot, dash, and syllable. In our sweaty work duds through the day and then gathered around at night under the kitchen fly lantern wearing old camp jackets, the distinctions between OT and newcomer fray and dissolve.

This year I had a pleasant surprise that jogged me into this little reverie. While experiencing "the innate cussedness of inanimate objects" late in the afternoon, rassing yet another connector onto an obstinate cable, a young voice burst through the 2-meter rig's squelch calling, "CQ Field Day" on 146.52. I was only too happy to put the connector down and called him back. The contact was a little stiff, with some coaching audible in the background. At the end, the young man added, "And you're my first contact!" Really, I said, your very first? And so it was, my connector forgotten, as we chatted a little while. What a treat for both of us! Those are rare moments.

As I look back through my own checkered ham career of thirty two years, starting with the high school club tearing around in my back yard, the Field Day memories are strong and numerous. I remember having to pound that vertical mounting pipe all the way into the ground because we couldn't pull it out and hoping my dad wouldn't catch us. Then there was freezing in the back of a buddy's VW bug all night and working unexpected DX on 40-meters. Watching the tide come in farther — a whole lot farther — than I expected and slowly covering up the bases of that fine 40-meter vertical array. Running a phone pileup with Mt. Rainier looming across the water in the evening sunset. I'm sure you have yours, too.

Yes, the very best thing about Field Day, useful intentions aside, is connecting with each other. To let new hams join our tribe and for the warriors to grow reacquainted once again. Life moves at such a fast pace these days, it's too easy to forget that we need to make contact, so to speak. Suddenly, six months are past and we've only chatted with the same dozen guys on the repeater or at the meetings. I really enjoy seeing a new face join in and pull on that guy rope or a familiar old face pop through the tent flap.

Sharing the work and the rewards does wonders for the ham spirit. A successful Field Day recharges our enthusiasm, widens our circle of friends, and enriches ham radio for us. It's not just about QSOs. Given the pastoral nature of the event's name, it seems appropriate to end this ramble with a quote from Thoreau, "Some men fish their entire lives without realizing it's not fish they're after." Field Day, at least, gives us a hint.

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix July 19th & 20th!

Amateur radio operators will, for the 21st consecutive year, be providing race course communications for the 21st Annual *Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix* in Pittsburgh's scenic & historic Schenley Park.

Operators are needed, all amateurs (from anywhere!) are invited to participate!

More information & sign up available at www.ares.pgh.pa.us/grandprix.html

Or contact Race Communications Coordinator Corky N3MJJ at (412) 601-0856 or (724) 850-7853



Who Needs Propagation to have a good time? N3SH Field Day 2003

Photo credits: K3VX — courtesy of & © Copyright 2003 Larry Comden K3VX
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KB3HVN — courtesy of & © Copyright 2003 Dan McCann KB3HVN



Frank KB3FZU & Lori KB3GMU operating (K3VX)



Michael KB3HFP looking like an old pro at this (N3ZEL)



Above: Ed N3ZNI recharging the batteries with solar cells for our alternative power bonus points (KB3HVN)



Left: Larry K3VX (WA3JPP)



Can you match the repeater owner with the frequency? Brett N3BV, Pete N3RNX, Steve W3SRL (N3ZEL)



Left: "Wow! It really works!" Antenna setup on Saturday morning (N3ZEL)



The 20 meter "Hamstick" Yagi, complete with Armstrong rotor (K3VX)



Proudly greeting our visitors, complete with satellite antennas! (KB3HVN)



Looks like Todd W8LEV was having a great time! (WA3JPP)



Left: Bill W3WH using the MFJ antenna analyzer to check an antenna (WA3JPP)

Below: The Hex Beam and (below it to the left) the 3 Element 10 Meter Yagi courtesy of Dave Stellfox N3XPM (K3VX)



Left: Checking out a mobile APRS setup, Kevin N3HKQ and Frank KB3FZU (K3VX)

Below Right: Harold KB3CPI and Hank KB3FNM (K3VX)



Left: Bill W3WH on camera as WPXI Channel 11 interviews him for the evening news, with Hank KB3FNM watching (N3ZEL)

Below: Richie N3SBF working on the grill (N3ZEL)



The SARA club had a good time; I had a good time as well! I don't know if you worked us or not, our call was W3CMA 3A EPA.

We were able to get that Cuba station and a station from Taheati. We had 400 contacts on code and we had 100 contacts on 40 meters and we had 50 contacts on 20 meters and 50 contacts on 80 meters over all.

We were interviewed by a local news paper called the time news. I was in that paper! We had to operate the radio and then gather around for a picture. They took pictures of us operating and they interviewed some of the members as well.

— Jason Milyo KB3ICC



Gary KB3GUZ, our master cook for Sunday breakfast... yes, Kevin N3KFD did have enough to eat, and so did everyone else! <g> (N3ZEL)

Free Wi-Fi for ZK2 Niue

Author Unknown, Courtesy of Frank Macklin VK1ZL
(From a VK1 Newsletter, information submitted by VK1KEP)

The tiny Pacific island country of Niue that Amateurs know as ZK2, or IOTA Reference Number OC-040, is the first country to have a country-wide open Wi-Fi or 802.11b, radio link to the Internet, using the world-wide license-free 2.4GHz band. ¹ Niue is one of the smallest countries in the world, consisting of a 259 sq. km. Island known as the "Rock of Polynesia".

The Wi-Fi network is also free and open to anyone on or visiting the island nation, including "yachties" and business travelers.

"Wi-Fi is the perfect fit for the Island of Niue, where harsh weather conditions of rain, lightning, salt water, and high humidity cause major problems with underground copper lines," said Richard St. Clair, Co-Founder and Technical Manager at The Internet Users Society — Niue, that runs the .NU internet domain and provides the free and open Wi-Fi access. Free, local dial-up internet access commenced in 1997.

Niue was formerly a protectorate of New Zealand, and Niueans have dual citizenship as citizens of an independent nation in free association with New Zealand. Only about 10% of all Niueans live on the island, the others mostly living in New Zealand and Australia. The island itself has a population of less than 2,000.

Niue is located 2,400 km north-east of New Zealand, on the eastern side of the International dateline, and is 11 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. A single land mass in the center of a triangle of Polynesian islands, made up of Tonga, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands.

Niue is often cited as the largest upraised coral atoll in the world, that Richard St. Clair says "should better be called the world's largest electronic component, a virtual 'pie network tank' or 'capacitive resistance tank' " because "Niue has no natural Earth ground, and therefore actually appears to an energy source as a giant capacitor-resistor floating on the ocean floor some thousands of feet down. Add to that the dielectric constant of ocean water, with a fresh water lens floating in coral and it makes Niue a very interesting specimen of electrical properties."

So, from now on, expect DXpeditions to ZK2 / IOTA OC-040 to be also on the Internet — for free.

¹ In the US, this is a Part 15 frequency allocation. The Amateur allocation on 13 cm overlaps the Part 15 Wi-Fi band.

Breaking News:

WARC-03 Expands 40 Meters Worldwide!

In an 11th hour compromise, delegates to WRC-03 voted on July 3rd to move the broadcasters out of 7100-7200 kHz and make that part of 40 meters Amateur Exclusive worldwide. While falling short of amateur expectations, this doubles the 40 meter allocation for most of the world outside of ITU Region 2 (North & South America).

The change will take 6 years to accomplish, not going into effect until 2009 (which is considered speedy in WRC circles).

"History was made today" stated IARU Secretary & ARRL CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ. "Never before in the history of radiocommunication has an HF broadcasting band been shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. But that's what took place this morning."

Sumner cited "the extraordinary efforts" of Jan Verduijn of the Radiocommunications Agency, The Netherlands, the CEPT Coordinator for Agenda Item 1.23 — the 7 MHz issue. "Jan was totally committed to finding a solution, not only for radio amateurs but for broadcasters and the fixed and mobile services as well," Sumner said.

The amateur 40 meter band was originally 7000 – 8000 kHz, and over the decades it has been shrunk as other services have demanded parts of the spectrum. The current situation — a shared band between amateurs and broadcasters — has often been unworkable for both services.

Back Issues of the *WASHRag* have a new home on the web:

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks NØPEU for providing the new site!

DX News Briefs



"I inform you, that my son Mike OM2DX will go back to Baghdad on 25.June 2003. But his activity will be limited in a few weeks because Slovak Embassy in Baghdad was total devastate, his power amplifier was lost and antenna systems (log-periodic yagi on 20-10m, vertical HF6 and wire dipoles on low bands) was destroyed. He will work as **YI1BGD** from club station but he believe that he receive his personal callign very soon. He will look also for YI1BGD documents (licence was issue in 1978) and will send his copy to ARRL. For other info look to www.qsl.net/om2dx — OM3JW, QSL Manager

"I telephoned to Monk Apollo **SV2ASP** today. He is in **Mount Athos (SV/A)** in Monastery of Dohiarou who lives and not outside in Monastery of Soho as it is usual every summer. I asked him to be active again but he told me that his HF transceiver, an old ICOM, has burned before two months. A friend of him and radio amateur from Thessaloniki tried to repair it without success. After that he will not be on the air in the future." — SV1DPI

DJ9ZB, EA5BYP, EA5FO and EA5YN, will be active from **3C0 Annobon Island** in October. Call sign to be announced along with other complete details (bands, modes, dates, etc). QSL via DJ9ZB — EA5YN

JA1BK & WA2MOE continue to lobby for the removal of the existing **4W Timor Leste** (ex UNAET) entity from the DXCC ranks, to be replaced by a new 4W entity with a 2003 start date (coinciding with JA1BK's recent operation). Among other things, they insist that under the "DXCC 2000" rules, the ARRL is obligated to remove the entity when it loses its ITU call block allocation, which technically happened between the time the UN provisional allocation of 4W expired, and the new government received the re-assigned 4W block from the ITU. However, a quick reading of the current rules indicate that while the ARRL may remove an entity on these grounds, it is not obligated to do so. Remember that under the current rules, entities that are removed from the list now disappear — they no longer transfer onto the "deleted" list.

The JiangSu DX Club will activate BY1PK as **B4HQ** in the upcoming 2003 IARU Championship. QSL via BA4RD — BD5RV, KB8NW/OPDX

Eight members of the Florida DXpedition Group will be operating from San Andres Island as **5JØJ** October 20th — 28th. They will run four to five stations before and after the CQWW SSB Contest. QSL via W4WX — W4WX

Remember that **ex-PY3ZM** etc. is only authorized to be the QSL manager for **HC2DX**. No other cards from him are being accepted — VA5DX, NC1L

Need a contact with **Cuba** for any band/mode? E-mail **CO8LY** co8ly@frcscu.ciges.inf.cu for a schedule. QSL via EA7ADH — CO8LY

If you are interested in being part of an upcoming contest team for **C91**, possibly **3DAØ**, contact Frosty at frosty1@pdq.net — K5LBU

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

E4/4Z5MK was QRV June 11th. The operation was not authorized by the appropriate authorities and occurred due to a misunderstanding of CEPT rules. The Palestinian Authority is not part of CEPT — 4Z5MK

Questions have been raised about **VP6LJ**. Tom Christian VP6TC confirms that Lyle is not a pirate, he is on assignment for at least a year ther! — AG5W

QSL Routes

5WØAH via DL2AH — DL2AH	S21YY via JM1HXU — W9IXX
5WØDA via F6EPY — PAØABM	SY8FUO via SV3FUO — VA3RJ
5WØVB via UA4WHX — N5PHT	T31MY via OM2SA — K8SIX
9L1AB via G3AB — PAØABM	T32Z via K3PD — K3PD
C6/W6JKV via W6JKV — VA3RJ	T42FD via K7JA — N6DZH
COØUS via K7JA — N6DZH	TF7X via K1WY — TF8GX
CY9A via N5VL — N5VL	TGØAA via TG9AXF — VA3RJ
GM4V via MMØANT — GMØCLN	TMØVDD via F6KHS — VA3RJ
J8OK via OK1RD — DL-L14/2381499	TM3ON via ON4ON — ON4ON
KH6XT via N9NU — N1NK	TX4PG via I2YSB — W9OL
KH9/N6XIV via K2FF — W9OL	V8NT via VK6NE — Darwin ARC
N8L via W5AZN — W5AZN	VK9XC via JA3MCA — W4YCH
OH6AW/8 via OH6AD — VA3RJ	XU7AAB via G3AB — PAØABM
PRØF via PY5XX — WB9NMN	YW5M via W4SO mail drop — VA3RJ
SØ5X via EA4URE — N1NK, W9OL	ZK1EPY via F6EPY — PAØABM

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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The NØVLR APRS digipeater is on the air! For those interested in Automated Position Reporting System, this "digi" operates as a RELAY, WIDE node with the ability to link information received at this site via W3VC at CMU.

Operating on 144.39 MHz simplex, located in Washington, PA near the intersection of I-70 and US-40, running 10 Watts output with an Omni-directional antenna, s at 1400 foot elevation. I've heard direct spots from OH, WV and as far north as the Bridgeville rest area on I-79.

I may also set up a an Internet gateway for packet spots at a later time. For now, just experimenting.

— Paul Lusardi NØVLR

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!



Understanding the FCC BPL NOI

Rick Lindquist N1RL courtesy of the ARRLWeb page

NEWINGTON, CT, June 19th, 2003 — On May 23, 2003, the FCC published a *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)* in ET Docket 03-104 asking how it should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals. The FCC calls this technology "Broadband over Power Line" (BPL)--a technology also known as Power Line Carrier or PLC. This article briefly explains the *NOI* and what amateurs should know so they can make informed comments to the FCC.



BPL uses building and/or overhead power lines to conduct HF and VHF digital signals to network computers. There are a number of ways people can obtain broadband services--from cable modem to digital subscriber line (DSL) to satellite. The FCC views BPL as a competitive Internet access point, and the utilities view the technology as a means to use existing infrastructure to generate additional revenue from something other than power generation and distribution.

The *NOI* asks how BPL should be regulated and states that the FCC wants to remove regulatory hurdles to its deployment. Present rules already permit BPL right now at significant power levels. Utilities would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels.

As of mid-June, nearly 1000 comments already had been filed. It is worth your time to become informed by reading the *NOI* itself and this article and to make your views known to the FCC. Amateurs should outline the important uses they make of Amateur Radio and the impact strong interference from BPL might have at HF and low-VHF amateur frequencies.

Electric utility companies will operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL members who have had experience dealing with power line interference and utilities' responses to complaints can describe those experiences in their comments to the Commission.

Information on how to file comments is at the end of this article. An ARRL white paper, "Calculated Impact of PLC on Stations Operating in the Amateur Radio Service," provides a more detailed presentation on the technical aspects of this issue. The ARRL's Broadband Over Power Line resource page contains links to worldwide studies and resources to help Amateur Radio with BPL issues.

What to Tell the FCC

Amateurs filing comments to the FCC *NOI* might want to consider including words on these topics and points as part of their comments to the FCC:

- Amateur Radio is a valuable resource that must be protected.
- Describe the use(s) you make of Amateur Radio, especially those with a public service or emergency communication aspect.
- The present FCC Part 15 limits for this technology already can result in substantial interference potential to amateur frequencies.
- BPL systems that radiate on wide swaths of spectrum and that occupy entire neighborhoods have greater interference potential than localized systems, such as switching power supplies or electric motors.
- The FCC has promised to protect licensed users of the spectrum. We must hold them to that promise.

A BPL Tutorial

The BPL industry claims that the infrastructure to accommodate this technology already is in place. In many field trial areas, however, the BPL purveyors have had to run optical fiber cable throughout the service area to serve as the Internet backbone for the few hundred trial subscribers. Other BPL systems use overhead medium-voltage wiring, with digital "repeaters" installed every 2000 feet or so along the way. This widely spaced, unshielded wiring radiates a strong BPL signal to nearby areas. Still other BPL systems use IEEE 802.11-protocol wireless equipment to make the connection to homes and businesses.

A number of BPL system types are in use or in development. Each employs different techniques and architecture, but all are carrier-current systems--a term describing systems that intentionally conduct signals over electrical wiring or power lines.

There are two major categories of BPL: Access BPL and In-Building BPL

- Access BPL uses electrical distribution lines--overhead or underground--to deliver broadband Internet access to homes and businesses. Because the wiring is physically large and often overhead and extends across entire communities, access BPL poses a significant interference potential to over-the-air radio services. Access BPL uses a number of different techniques, from spread spectrum to OFDM (multi-carrier signals).

(FCC News Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

- In-building BPL systems are designed to use the electrical wiring within a building to network computers. In-building BPL can be used to interconnect PCs or other devices within a building by using that building's electrical wiring. Access BPL uses electrical distribution wiring to extend that connection to the Internet.

What Present FCC Rules Permit

The *NOI* is *not* asking if BPL technology should be permitted. Under existing FCC rules, BPL systems may be built and used in the United States right now. The FCC is asking how the rules might be changed "to promote and encourage new BPL technology," in the words of the *NOI*.

Present FCC rules say that carrier-current systems--this includes BPL/PLC--need to meet the general radiated emission limits for unlicensed "intentional emitters." An intentional emitter is one that transmits a radio signal as a part of its normal operation. At HF, BPL systems are permitted a radiated field strength of 30 uV/meter measured at 30 meters from the signal source. At VHF, they are permitted radiated emissions of 100 uV/meter measured at 3 meters from the signal source. In most cases, the source will be the electrical wiring within a building or the electric-utility lines that pass close to residences and businesses in the US.

The FCC Notice of Inquiry

The FCC *NOI* asks a number of specific questions about BPL and how it should be regulated and tested. BPL systems under development and in field trials right now use spectrum between 1.7 and 80 MHz, but the *NOI* is also asking whether BPL should also operate on other parts of the spectrum. Amateurs are encouraged to read the *NOI* in its entirety and answer those questions from an Amateur Radio perspective view. Many amateurs have significant professional credentials and experience and this represents an opportunity to use that amateur experience to help the Commission make a difficult decision.

The *NOI* asks additional questions than we cover here, but these are the ones of greatest interest to most amateurs:

- What changes should the FCC make to existing rules to promote this technology, consistent with the Commission's objective of protecting licensed radio services?
- What spectrum should BPL use? Is there a need to define specific frequency bands for BPL to avoid interference to licensed services?
- How can the potential for interference be predicted?
- Will access BPL be compatible with other systems such as DSL or cable collocated on utility structures? Will in-building BPL be compatible with other devices plugged into the building electrical system?
- Are there any test results from BPL field trials that analyze or demonstrate the interference potential?
- Are existing Part 15 rules adequate to protect authorized users of the spectrum from new high-speed BPL technology?
- Does new high-speed BPL technology pose a higher risk of interference than existing unlicensed technology?
- What changes should be made the rules that describe how measurements should be made?
- How can the Part 15 rules be tailored to both ensure protection against harmful interference and to avoid adversely impacting the development of BPL technology?

No Harmful Interference

FCC Part 15 rules require that the operator of an unlicensed emitter not cause harmful interference to authorized radio services. The absolute emission limits and the non-interference rule work together to allow most unlicensed devices to operate without causing widespread interference.

BPL is different from point-source emitters, however. Access BPL systems are not

local in nature. They are expected to occupy entire communities. BPL systems do not create "birdies" on specific frequencies. They create radiated emissions at the FCC limits on entire swaths of spectrum.

If interference occurs from localized "unintentional radiator" sources such as power line noise, solutions exist. For example, power companies can change cracked insulators. The FCC has been able to enforce these rules when necessary. Indeed, a number of electric utilities have received letters from the FCC, as have the neighbors of hams who own and operate noisy Part 15 devices.

In the case of access BPL, if an amateur doesn't have the broadband system installed in his or her own house but experiences interference from signals radiated via the overhead electrical wiring, the only real solution could be to turn off the BPL system in entire neighborhoods. As a practical matter, that is unlikely to occur.

BPL Field Trials

A number of field trials have been conducted overseas. In many cases, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-societies have carried out tests in the trial areas. In Austria, video recordings were made of some of the field trials.

Field trials are just getting under way in the US. To date, *none* of them have specifically included Amateur Radio nor have any incorporated interference studies. Typical field trials include from a handful to a few hundred homes in suburban neighborhoods.

ARRL has identified active field trials in Briarcliff Manor, New York; Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Cullman, Alabama; Emmaus, Pennsylvania; Hyde Park, Ohio; Manassas, Virginia; Potomac, Maryland; and Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition, the FCC has granted experimental licenses to BPL equipment manufacturers or utilities in a number of other states. To ARRL's knowledge, actual field trials have not started there yet.

Immunity

To ARRL's knowledge, no field trials have studied immunity. What will happen when amateurs operate their stations in areas where BPL is deployed? ARRL recently petitioned the FCC for a tiny amateur LF allocation in the vicinity of 136 kHz. The electric utility industry claimed in comments on the ARRL's petition that its PLC devices — operating on an unlicensed basis on frequencies below 490 kHz — would suffer harmful interference from 1 W effective isotropically radiated power (EIRP) amateur stations. The FCC agreed and chose not to grant Amateur Radio the LF allocation it sought.

Yet the same utility industry, in consortium with BPL manufacturers, is making the claim that on HF and low-VHF— frequencies where power lines make better antennas than they do on LF — BPL signals can coexist with amateur stations that may be running more than 10,000 W EIRP.

Hams are generally very concerned about immunity, because they understand and appreciate the social problems that might result when a neighbor's broadband access doesn't work because the amateur is on the air.

File Comments

Comments are due on or before July 7, 2003. Reply comments are due on or before August 6, 2003. The FCC now is accepting electronically filed comments via its Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Under ECFS Main Links, click on "Submit a Filing." In the "Proceeding" field, enter "03-104" and complete the required fields. Comments may be typed into a form or you may attach a file containing your comments. Comments also may be submitted via e-mail per instructions on the ECFS page. The FCC has created a Web page that offers more information about filing comments. There's also a mailing address for those wishing to file comments by postal mail.

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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:

- Field Day 2003 Wrap Up & Photos!
- Have you commented on the FCC's Broadband over Power Lines NOI?
- **Breaking News!!!! WRC-03 Expands Amateur 40 Meter Worldwide Allocation to 7000 – 7200 kHz!**
- **New Meeting Location**

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



Everyone Had A Great Time At The N3SH Field Day!

Gary KB3GUZ tries operating among intense local QRM...
More Field Day Photos Inside!

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Larry Comden K3VX

The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2222



*This Month —
Pittsburgh Vintage
Grand Prix*



N3SH / WA3SH
WP2AIQ
www.washarc.org

Reminder!
We Now Meet At the
Peters Township Library