



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 5 Issue 8

August 2003

N3SH
WA3SH
WP2AIQ

Wireless Association of South Hills

Club Picnic August 17th

The Fifth Annual (& Tenth Anniversary) **Wireless Association** Club Picnic will take place on Sunday, August 17th. It will be held at Elm Grove Park, off Thomasville Road in Peters Township, starting at approximately 1:00 PM. The park is located about 1.5 miles from the intersection with McMurray Road (the intersection with the BP/CoGo's station). Talk-in will be available on the 146.955 & 443.650 MHz repeaters, as always.

Elm Grove is a new park. It has a pavilion that will hold approximately 40 people, rest rooms, picnic benches, charcoal grill, and electric power. There is also a playground, baseball and soccer fields, and other "free" space available.

WASH has the pavilion reserved from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, so feel free to stop early and enjoy the park facilities! As of the time of reservation, none of the other fields were reserved, so we may have exclusive use of them should we desire!

The picnic is open to all **WASH** members, their families, and invited guests.

Detailed directions to the park will be available before and at the meeting.

Our thanks to Bryan K3OL for making the arrangements for **WASH** to have access to this new facility!

The club will (as usual) be providing burgers & dogs, and charcoal to grill them. We need volunteers for the usual:

- Soft drinks
- Ice in coolers
- Watermelon and other fruits
- Corn on the cob
- Side dishes & salads
- Pretzels, potato chips, and misc. snacks
- Paper & plastic (napkins, plates, plastic ware, etc.)
- Deserts and other treats

If you are planning to go, please let Bryan Beyer K3OL know so that we can coordinate what everyone brings (If you're not sure, let him know that too) and about how many are coming. Bryan can be reached at **724-941-2925** or **brbeyer@bellatlantic.net**. If you are planning to attend the Warren (OH) hamfest in the morning, let Bryan know if you think you'll be back in time for the picnic (even if you get back a little late — we'll save something for you!)

Pa QSO Party: 3 Months & Counting

Almost hard to believe, but the 46th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party on October 11th & 12th is only three months away! Now is the time to start thinking about how you can participate in this year's event!

After last year's event, **WASH** had offered to be the host "special event/bonus" station for this year's contest, in part to help commemorate the 10th anniversary of the club's founding. We decided to withdraw that offer after the KP2 DXpedition was put together, since many of our regular ops for N3SH/Clarion will be heading south. Instead, our hope is to run not one, not two, but all three **WASH** club stations — **N3SH** in **Clarion County**, **WA3SH** from the **Westmoreland/Somerset County Line**, and **WP2AIQ** (which should be updated to a KP2 2x2 Vanity call any day now) from NP2JF's villa on **St. John, USVI** — during this year's contest as part of our Anniversary year.

To do that, we will need some help from some club members. N3SH has run multi-op/multi-transmitter the last few years, but we may have to scale it back to multi-single if we don't have enough equipment and operators. So ops (no experience necessary, and don't worry about license class!) are needed for N3SH! From what we've heard, last year's WA3SH crew is pretty much intact, but they can always use a hand too. Interested? Speak up at the next club meeting and we'll take it from there.

In addition to the club stations, we also hear that N3ZNI & KB3GOT will be running around WPA mobile again, possibly to be joined by KQ3DX in his new mobile unit.

(PA QSO 2003 Continued on page 5)

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

Next Meeting: August 14th, 2003

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, August 14th, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 6:30 PM.

Fall plans, PA QSO Party operations, the KP2 DXpedition, upcoming club picnic, and more will all be discussed.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RN/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeater (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

**August & September
NCS Stations:**

- 08/03 Bell Family
- 08/10 Kevin N3HKQ
- 08/17 Frank KB3FZU
- 08/24 Michael KB3HFP
- 08/31 Bill W3WH
- 09/07 Paul NØVLR
- 09/14 Hank KB3FNM
- 09/21 Bell Family
- 09/28 Kevin N3HKQ

Alternates & Backups
Dave N3DH
Ron WN3VAW

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

- WPA Section Convention September 7th
- WACOM Hamfest October 5th
- Pennsylvania OSO Party October 11th & 12th

August 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Elco ARS Meeting	2 RA Erie VE Test Beaver Valley ARA VE Test Juniata Valley ARC Hamfest Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
3 Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	4 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	5 S H B P & M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net	6 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	7 WACOM Meeting & Picnic RA Erie Meeting	8	9 Butler Co ARA VE Test North Hills ARC VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
10 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	11 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	12 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net	13 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHF5 Mtng. Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	14 WASH Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting	15 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC Meeting	16 Foothills ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
17 WASH Picnic OCWA Pittsburgh Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	18 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	19 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CV ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting WACOM Net	20 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co ARES Net Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	21 Triple "A" ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting	22	23 North Hills ARC Elmer Net
Skyview Hamfest OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	25 Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	26 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net G P VHF S Swap n Shop Net	27 Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	28 WACOM Board Meeting	29	30 WASH Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net W3PIE Gabfest
31 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Youth Net WASH FM Net	9/1 Labor Day Breezeshooters Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net	9/2 S H B P & M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net G P VHF S Swap n Shop Net	9/3 Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	9/4 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting	9/5 Elco ARS Meeting	9/6 WPA Hilltoppers VE Test RA Erie VE Test 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)**

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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 October 16th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, October 16th, 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 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, January 15th, 2004
 Thursday, April 15th, 2004
 Thursday, July 15th, 2004
 Thursday, October 21st, 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** got together on July 26th, in the meeting room at the King's Family Restaurant on Route 19 & McClelland Road. In attendance this month were N3ZNI, N3ZEL, KB3CPI, K3VX, W4ZE, KB3GOT & his daughter Rebecca. Lots of conversations about antennas and other radio related items reported.

The next Club Breakfast will be returning to the re-opened (after over two months!) & newly renovated **Dietz's Restaurant** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, on August 30th! See you there!

Breakfast woes: Lately it always seems to be something, doesn't it? The almost last-minute change in location for the July breakfast happened because the Washington Ponderosa Restaurant has discontinued their Saturday morning breakfast buffet, effective sometime in July, which wasn't discovered until N3ZEL tried to reserve the usual room for us. Needless to say, suggestions for a Washington-area "south" site for the even month breakfasts are now being solicited! But the good news is, as noted above, is that **Dietz's Restaurant** is back with us, so we'll be resuming the odd-month breakfasts there immediately.

Call updates: New club member Al Morrison (KB3JXJ) has recovered his original call under the Vanity system, so look for Al now QRV once again as K3PCF! Al originally received "Pizza, Coke & French fries" back when he was in high school. Another familiar call returning to the airwaves is N3WX, the last call held by Silent Key & club founder (back when we were known as SHARC) Ron Lentz. It's now a memorial club call held in his memory.

Meeting updates: Due to upcoming renovations at the Northland Public Library, the **North Hills ARC W3EXW** will begin holding their Business Meeting and Activity Nights at **UPMC/North Hills Passavant Hospital**, starting in September and through at least August 2004 (except for the October 2003 Business Meeting which will be held at the North Hills Senior High School.) The August 9th North Hills ARC VE Test remains at the Northland Library; site for future NHARC VE Tests remains to be announced.

DXpedition update: Plans continue on target for the KP2 DXpedition to the USVI. A minor paperwork snafu has delayed the update of the WP2AIQ club call to a vanity 2x2, but that is expected to come through any day now. The official web page for the trip is under construction at www.w3srl.com, and you are invited to check it out as it is updated for the latest information.

Call change lately? If you're call sign has been changed lately, either due to an upgrade in license class or the assignment of a Vanity call, let us know so that we can keep the roster up to date!

Victim of SPAM: Ye Editor has recently discontinued the forwarding service provided by the ARRL (as in wn3vaw@arrl.net) and is forced to encourage you to consider doing the same thing. Why? Because of the plague of the Internet commonly known as SPAM — unwanted junk and commercial e-mail.

The final straw was turning on the computer after coming home from work, finding 175 messages waiting, and all but 15 were get-rich-quick, offers, refinance options, or offers of such an Adult nature that we can't mention them in a family newsletter. Of those 160 junk messages, about 140 came via the ARRL alias. Hopefully this will be a temporary measure; it's annoying to have to drop such a useful service because a handful of slimeballs are vastly abusing email in such ways.

To reflect or not to reflect, that is the question... are you on the **WASH** club reflector? Some members aren't. It's a great way to stay in touch with other club members and to be kept up to date on club events. And it's a "members only" system; only authorized club members are allowed to post to it. To join up, just send an email to n3sh-subscribe@yahoo.com.

July 17th VE Test Session Results

We had four candidates at our July 17th VEC test session, held at the Peter's Township Library in Peters Township. Three of the candidates upgraded existing licenses, the fourth earned a new license outright, for a 100% successful test session! All four candidates took and passed their 5 WPM code elements.

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

- Technician Plus: John Hughes KB3IOL
- General: Harold KB3CPI
Rick Bell KB3IAC
Robert Pernet KC8YEN
- WASH VE Team: Bryan Beyer K3OL
Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Hank Marzina KB3FNM
Ron Notarius WN3VAW
Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
Mark Stabryla N3RDV

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

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Hopefully you'll get this in time... the WACOM club picnic is Thursday evening, August 6th, starting at 6:00 PM at the picnic pavilion behind the South Strabane #1 VFD fire hall, 1696 East Maiden Street, Washington. All WASH members are invited to stop by and have a good time with our friends in WACOM! (And yes, the WACOM guys are equally welcome to do the same at the WASH club picnic on the 17th!)



Some of the July Breakfast gang. Photo courtesy of & ©2003, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

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

Minutes, July 10th Meeting

Larry Comden K3VX, Acting Secretary, WASH

Shawn, NØPEU, **called the meeting to order** at 19:00 hours followed by self-introductions. There were ~21 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the June meeting as published in the May newsletter. It was made by Bill, W3WH, and seconded by Ted, W4ZE. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): No report.

Secretary (KB3FZU): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session will hold on Thursday July 17th at the Peters Township Library.

Repeaters: The tones have been removed 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): No Report.

Public Service (N3RDV): The upcoming Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix was discussed. Several members indicated that they will participate.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): No Report.

Activities and Contests (W3WH): Field Day band conditions were poor.

However, club members and guests had a good time operating, eating and socializing. Results were not available yet. W3WH asked for suggestions for improvement. Jim, WO3Z, mentioned better antennas, which includes greater separation. There is a question about continuing FD at the Library Sportsman's Assoc. W3WH mentioned that anyone who participated in FD is entitled to a pin.

W4ZE reported on the upcoming IARU 24 hour contest and the new Logbook of the World, which implements electronic confirmation of contacts for awards.

W3WH reported on the club DXpedition to St John, USVI, scheduled for October. There are 3 goals: general DX operating, California and Pennsylvania QSO parties. Bill wanted to know about local PA QSO Party plans.

President's Report (NØPEU): Shawn reported on the recent convention for the blind in Pittsburgh. Also, Shawn's loop antenna (put up by club members) has disappeared during a roofing repair job.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Hank, KB3FNM moved that the club make a donation to the Library Sportsman's Association. Second by Ron WN3VAW. Passed unanimously.

Bill, W3WH reported on the progress of establishing a 10 Meter beacon on St John, USVI. Steve, W3SRL, purchased the transmitter and beacon control system. Ron, WN3VAW, made a motion to allocate \$150 for the project, seconded by Ed, W3VFA and passed unanimously. The equipment will be delivered during the DXpedition.

There was a discussion about offering code classes either as a WASH project or in conjunction with WACOM. Dave, W3IDH reported on WACOM's plan to start classes in the fall. The consensus is that 6 weeks of classes should begin right after Labor Day, so that the last class just precedes the fall VE session. The class will be open to members of both clubs. About 10 people showed interest. W3IDH also said the WACOM will hold a Technician cram class just before the VE session.

Good of the Order: Beginning in August there will be refreshments at the meeting. Kevin, N3HKQ volunteered to supply them in August. There will be bucket for contributions.

Motion to Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 19:56

WASH Spotlight: KB3GOT



Dave KB3GOT enjoying the July club breakfast with his daughter Rebecca. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL.

Monthly WASH Breakfasts Saturday, August 30th

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 this month at **Dietz's Restaurant**, Baptist & Grove Roads in the Caste Village Shops, Whitehall.

Start time is about 8 AM until whenever.

Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not! See you there!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3FZU	KD3JV	N3RDV	NP2JF	Barbara Misis
AA3JS	KB3GMN	KE3XB	N3RHT	N8DPW	David Delmonico
AB3AB	KB3GMO	KE7FD	N3RNX	W3GEL	
K3BZW	KB3GMP	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3HND	
K3LIE	KB3GMU	KQ3DX	N3SRC	W3JAF	Silent Keys
K3OL	KA3GNT	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3RJM	K3EED
K3PCF	KB3GOT	NØVLR	N3UE	W3RWS	KB3FQT
K3VX	KB3GZG	NØWVP	N3UIW	W3SRL	N3KEH
K3WR	KB3GUZ	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3VE	N3OBD N3SKR
K9LZ	KB3HFP	N3AWF	N3WPT	W3VFA	W3ZLK
KA3PPH	KB3HVN	N3BSQ	N3XFE	W3WH	
KA3TFB	KB3IAC	N3CZZ	N3XI	W4ZE	Color Codes:
KA3TWI	KB3ICC	N3FZ	N3YPB	W8LEV	2003 Member
KA3UPY	KB3IJX	N3HKQ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	2002 Member
KA3WZO	KB3IRQ	N3IDH	N3ZCG	WB3BPH	2001 Member
KA3YTS	KB3IVW	N3INT	N3ZEG	WB3GTL	2000 Member
KB3ANH	KB3IVX	N3KFD	N3ZEH	WN3BOJ	
KB3CPI	KB3QX	N3MJQ	N3ZEL	WN3VAW	
KB3DCO	KC2JJB	N3PN	N3ZNI	WO3Z	
KB3ENX	KC6VLV	N3QMV	N4MIS		
KB3EPI					
KB3ERQ					
KB3FNM					

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

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks NØPEU for providing the new site!

Through July 30th, 2003

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

(PA QSO 2003 Continued from page 1)

So what can you do? Get on the air in the contest from home and make some contacts. Grab a rig, a battery, a tuner and some wire, head out to some outlying county, and activate it (is it that easy? Surprisingly, yes!). Hook up with one of the **WASH** club stations and help man them.

Can't travel far from home? No rig available or your license class doesn't permit much 80 & 40 meter operation? No problem! Let us know. Some home stations can often be arranged to be "borrowed" for some or all of the weekend. Some home ops are looking for another person to help out. Some mobile ops are looking for a logger or driver. Some portable stations always can use a hand and can help make arrangements. And other club stations can sometimes become available; Steel City ARC's W3KWH and WACOM's WA3COM are also QSO Party regulars, to name two, and they too are often looking for ops.

And don't be intimidated if you've never done it before. We all had to start out like that once. While operating the contest can be fast-paced, it doesn't have to be, and it's a lot of fun to boot. Computer logging software makes keeping track of everything a breeze compared to the old days of paper & pencil & dupe sheets, so you can concentrate on operating and having a good time.

Code needs work? Not to worry — Most ops, especially the better & best ones, will slow down to match your speed (especially if you're operating from a rare[r] county) and with a little practice, you'd be surprised how quickly it can pick up.

Many WPA counties can be tough to find, especially once you start getting an hour or so away from the major population centers (Pittsburgh, Erie, Washington, State College, Altoona, etc.). So definitely consider portable operation. Wouldn't it be neat if **WASH** members could activate all of our surrounding counties (not just Allegheny & Washington, but Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, Somerset, Beaver, and even Armstrong & Lawrence) in addition to the club stations?

No, you don't need a high power station to operate in this contest. Most ops run their 100 watt rigs barefoot (before moving to Alaska, W3YQ used to win Forest County running 5 W QRP every year!), and most use a simple dipole or wire antenna to cover 80 & 40 meters. The bigger challenge is finding spots to operate, but there are always state game lands, parks, and forests around where you can find a parking area, a high spot, and a few trees to run some wires in! An antenna for the high bands (20/15/10) isn't essential (especially if you can load that wire) although it's nice to work the midwest and west coast stations for multipliers... and don't forget about our guys in the USVI who'll be looking for contacts!

County winners get certificates, as will the top single op in the club. The last few years, coffee mugs have been available to all making 100 or more QSO's (easy to do in 2 or 3 hours on Saturday afternoon!) and there's been some talk about other rewards (ie T-Shirts) becoming available to. So you can always find an incentive to operate if doing it for the sheer fun isn't enough.

The Pennsylvania QSO Party starts at 12 Noon (EST) on Saturday, October 11th, and runs through 6 PM (EST) on Sunday the 12th, with an 8 hour break from 1 AM to 9 AM on Sunday. Complete rules will be published in the October newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Remember When?



From the archives... the Pig Roast at the 1997 South Hills ARC Field Day (W3WH/3... this was just before the N3SH call was assigned to the club, & the last Field Day we operated under the SHARC name) at AA3FI's farm.

July WPA Section News

John Rodgers N3MSE, ARRL WPA Section Manager

Giving of themselves to help others is what 21 Western Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Operators did June 29 (Field Day). The American Diabetic Association scheduled their annual Tour de Cure ride that day (see below).

Field Day is now behind us as are several hamfests. The next hamfests on tap for Western Pennsylvania will be the JVARC hamfest near Lewistown, Pa. on August 2. This will be a new hamfest for me and I am looking forward to meeting the members at the event. Don't forget that this years section convention will be on Sunday, September 7 at the Farm show grounds in Butler.

I would like to thank Paul Oliastro for his service as DEC of the rapid response team and as DEC for North 1 district. Paul has resigned to take care of family related health issues. We want to all wish Paul and the family well and I know he will continue to support the ares program. The DEC for rapid response will not be filled at this time and individuals interested in the DEC position for north 1 should contact me directly. I also want to welcome Rick Thompson, AE3C, as the new DEC for OES in the western part of the section. I have met Rick and his daughter Barbara several times at hamfests and at Emmcomm courses. Barbara has also asked me to remind the young hams about the under 21 net on Sunday evenings. This net is at 8:30 PM on the 146.88 machine with a negative offset, Barbara is net control and thanks to the North Hills amateur radio club for sponsoring the net.

I received the following from Ray Albert, N3XCD, EC of Butler county and was asked to include it in this months letter. Please check the section web page at <http://www.arrl.org/sections/WPA.html> for other information as things develop in our section.

Tour de Cure ride on one of the most important weekends for amateur radio. With concerns about getting 20 — 25 radio operators to help with communications on the ride the call went out on nets, emails, club meetings, and Hamfest.

Twenty-one operators came forward and made the commitment to give up Field Day and help. They came from Allegheny County, Butler County, Forrest County, Lawrence County and Westmoreland County to fill positions at rest stops, in SAG vehicles and net controls. With 5 different mileage rides we had a lot to cover.

There were 246 riders of all ages and even diabetics riding the rides. Operators at rest stops were to communicate information about supplies and riders at these stops, to net control. Operators riding in SAG vehicles kept track of riders on the route and pass on information about riders having problems or breakdowns, to net control. Net controls (2 radios set up on repeaters 147.31 and 145.36) collected all the information and passed it on to the people in charge of the ride at the start/finish line.

Radio operators started working at 6:30 am and were there until the last rider crossed the finish line at 5:40 pm. Diabetes seems to affect us all. We may be a diabetic or have a family member or a friend that this affects. The early count shows that over \$80,700.00 was raised that day for research to fight diabetes.

Thank you to the two repeaters that gave us complete use of their repeaters to cover the ride. The 145.31 machine owned by the Beaver Valley Amateur Radio Association and the 147.36 owned by Butler County Amateur Radio Association. Thank you members and operators for giving us the use of these repeaters on the busy Field Day weekend. A special Thank you goes to the Amateur Radio Operators for giving up Field Day and helping others in a great and successful ride for the American Diabetes Association.

This is just one of the many events that amateurs in our section contribute to the support and safe operation of various events. I want to thank the hams that took part in the tour de cure as well as all the other public service events that take place throughout the year.

I would like to hear from the clubs in the section about any topics they would like to see the section staff develop a training program for presentation. We have currently developed courses for the boy scout radio merit badge, traffic handling, QSLing, license renewal procedures. These are powerpoint presentations developed by ASM Bruce Watson, AA3LX with input from various others. We plan to provide more topics and make them available on cd or via email to interested groups. Contact me with any questions or topics for consideration.

FAR Scholarship Winners

Hugh Turnbull W3ABC, Foundation for Amateur Radio

The FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC. is pleased to announce this year's winners for the fifty-nine (59) scholarships which it administers.

These scholarships were open to all licensed Radio Amateurs meeting the qualification and residence requirements of the various sponsors. The FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia, representing more than seventy-five Amateur Radio clubs in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. It is devoted exclusively to the scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

The announcement for the year 2004 awards will appear in the January or February issues of the major Amateur Radio publications & radio club newsletters.

FAR SILENT KEY Memorial Scholarships 3@ \$1000 each

Michael D. Gilman, KC2AKG - Livingston, NJ
Christina E. Kulp, KG4KXJ - Middletown, VA
Victoria M. Reid - AA3OT - Sigel, PA

QCWA Named MEMORIAL Scholarships - 3@ \$1500 each

Ralph Hasslinger (W2CVF) Charter Member Scholarship
Alexander M. Golden, AG1S - Burke, VA
Donald & Phyllis Doughty Family Scholarship
Brian D. Myhre, KG4DMM - Montclair, VA

Jacobson-Kelleher Memorial Scholarship

Andrew F. Schaefer, KB2ZWW - Binghamton, NY

QCWA Named MEMORIAL Scholarships - 2@ \$1000 each

Robert Cresap (W9LRI) Memorial Scholarship
William S. Bailey, KF4VAU - Johnson City, TN

Leo Meyerson Family Living Scholarship

Matthew J. Dean, KE4UKY - Charlottesville, VA

QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarships - 11@ \$1000 each

Sara K. Hanna, KE6MWX - Willits, CA
Matthew M. Henry, KE4VEM - Rotonda West, FL
Matthew G. Kersus, KC2GGA - Wall, NJ
Thomas R. Leach, KC2CIK - Tonawanda, NY
Jason M. Marshall, KB1CZE - Monticello, ME
Ross R. Mehaffey, KC0ABQ - North Bend, NE
Ryan J. Nerp, KC2EDH - Lake Katrine, NY
Daniel A. Nygren, KA3ZHT - Sweet Valley, PA
Nathan J. Ott, KF4JER - Inverness, FL
Amanda C. Rodski, KB3DTY - Philadelphia, PA
James A. Rusinko, KB3GWD - Pittsburgh, PA

Old Old Timers Club Scholarship - \$600

Kelly Lenzion, KC8JUX - Fowlerville, MI

Young Ladies' Radio League Ethel Smith (K4LMB) Memorial Scholarship - \$1500

Therese G. Long, KC8PEZ - Imlay City, MI

Young Ladies' Radio League Mary Lou Brown (NM7N) Memorial Scholarship - \$1500

Tiffany N. Swann, KF4DGT - Warner Robbins, GA

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Memorial Scholarship-\$2000

In Memory of Claude H. Haring (W3IIM)

Eric D. Marano, N3YXZ - Harleysville, PA

Lawrence E. and Thelma J. Norrie Memorial Scholarship -\$2500

Martin C. Worster, KD5LJT - Harrison, AR

Richard G. Chichester, Memorial Scholarship, - \$1000

Sponsored by Patricia and Jack(W9AMF) Chichester

George R. James, WB5LDN -- Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Radio Club of America Scholarships - 3@ \$1000

Andrew A. Knitt, KB9JOZ - Rhinelander, WI
Robert J. Rodgers, WA3KOI - Gibsonia, PA
Andrew J. Wagner, KB9TAC - Menomonie, WI

Columbia Amateur Radio Association Scholarship - \$1000

Bryan J. West, N3SRW - Gaithersburg, MD

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Scholarships (5)

Nancy H. Christian, KB3BBF - Lanham, MD - \$1000
Virginia L. Hallock, KB3ITZ - Accokeek, MD - \$1000
Andrew Metcalf, KB3GYE - Smithsburg, MD - \$1000
Pamela R. Smith, KB3GZJ - Laurel, MD - \$1000

Ernie Dobos Memorial Scholarship -

Elizabeth R. Schemm, KA3WVL - Clarksville, MD -\$1500

Ralph V. "Andy" Anderson, K0NL, Memorial Scholarship -\$1000

Mark S. Wainer, KB2ZRT - Milford, PA

Dade Radio Club Tropical Hamboree Scholarships - 2 @ \$1000 each

Gary T. Fowks, KF4HEE - Saint Cloud, FL
Michael Henry, KF4KDI - Rotonda West, FL

Virginia Beach Hamfest Scholarships -2@ \$500 each

Joshua K. Brown, KF4HJO - Virginia Beach, VA
Leslie A. Clements, KG4IBP - Portsmouth, VA

Ernest L. Walker, WB3DVL Memorial Scholarship - \$1000

Sponsored by the Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society
Joshua J. Smith, KB3GWT - Laurel, MD

Maryland Mobileers Memorial Scholarship - \$1000

In Memory of Jerry Gavin, NU3D

Christopher J. Hebert, KB3FUE - Owings Mills, MD

Dwight Weller Memorial Scholarship - \$1000

Sponsored by Philip Karn, KA9Q

Jonathan Marvin, W0LBG - Johnston, IA

Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club Scholarship - \$1000

Kathy E. Hufford, KF4CJR - Woodbridge, VA

Murgas Amateur Radio Club Scholarship - \$500

Thomas M. Reber, KB3FCH - Coatesville, PA

Rose Ellen Bills Memorial Scholarships - \$2000

John L. Walker, N4DMR - Cullman, AL

Frederick Amateur Radio Club Scholarship - \$1000

Shaun Hutton, N3WBM - Frederick, MD

10-10 International Net Scholarships - 5 @ \$1000 each

Benjamin M. Bays, KC8LHR - Cincinnati, OH
Krista D. Birmingham, KB2MER - Ridgewood, NJ
Benjamin E. Jack, N3VYA - Huntingdon Valley, PA
Amy L. Johnson, KB3HXF - New Castle, PA
Joshua J. Long, N8CFS - Imlay City, MI

Kevin Barry Perdue Memorial Scholarship - \$2000

Sponsored by Kay (N3KN) and Carter (N3AO) Craigie

Eric M. Tichanski, NI3S - Chicora, PA

WARAC Memorial Scholarship - \$1500

Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Nicholas J. Luther, K9NL - Oshkosh, WI

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Scholarships -\$1000

Michael J. Haessler, KB9TGF - Waupaca, WI

Ozaukee Radio Club Scholarship - \$1000

Jayson J. Kempinger, KB9VGF - Milwaukee, WI

Free State Amateur Radio Club Scholarship - \$500

Christopher B. Beall, N3TIK - Myersville, MD

Robert E. True Memorial Scholarship - \$1000

Sponsored by Mrs. Shirley True Banning

Robert C. Mate, KB8VXJ - N. Olmstead, OH

Northern California DX Foundation Scholarships - \$1000

Ben Schupack, NW7DX - Sammamish, WA

Potomac Valley Radio Club Scholarship - \$1000

Nathaniel Heatwole, WZ3AR - Damascus, MD

Ten Tec Orion vs. Elecraft K2: An Owner's Analysis

John Buck KH7T courtesy of Jim Reid KH7M & the Ten-Tec Reflector on Contesting.com

The reason I have an ORION is that about 20 years ago I wrote a white paper predicting that the digital radio would be able to out perform the best of the analog radios.

The ORION is the first that meets that prediction and my specifications. It is really the third generation digital rig: First, Kachina; second, IC-756Proll; and now third, the ORION.

It took ICOM 3 generations 756, 756pro and 756proII to get an acceptable radio. But they compromised the transmit too much. So anyway, I had to have an ORION.

The ORION with its dual receivers can do several tricks like dual diversity reception, and binaural reception. The band scope really works but operates only on the primary ham band receiver. I had expected it to operate on the sub receiver for general coverage.

It has a good set of line inputs and outputs for computer interface to sound card. An adapter or isolation transformer may not be necessary although I use isolation transformers just in case. On psk31 I get IMD reports as high as 28 to 31. Excellent.

It has extra Key inputs and good controls for an external amplifier. The internal tuner option works very well but does not have memory and only operates on the Antenna 1 connector. Their track record on issuing downloadable control software updates for the radio eeprom has been good.

I have the K2 with all the self contained options in one box and the 100 watt amp and autotuner in a matching box. This allows me to pick up the 10-15 watt K2 with internal battery and tuner and go any where, toss an antenna into the bushes and get on the air. The only thing I have to carry along are antenna wire, Mike, and Key.

The ORION outperforms the K2 slightly. There are a few times when I can dig out a very weak signal with the ORION that I cannot with the K2.

I do not have the DSP module in the K2 yet. It will further narrow any performance gap between the ORION and K2.

The ORION is easier to get in to trouble with poorly selected USER options. To use the Orion well, you will find the learning curve is fairly steep.

I love the Orion designed in options and uncompromised performance. If I had a strong desire for the cleanest looking desktop system with best performance, I would choose the ORION.

If I wanted the best portable and desktop capable unit, I would choose the K2.

If I had to have a single box including HF through UHF, I would choose the 746 PRO. But this would be a compromise on HF performance.

I am fortunate that I had the K2 before the Orion appeared, and then had a good excuse to get an ORION. I will not sell the K2 and probably will keep the ORION.

If I could only have one rig, I would probably choose the K2, because of the portability plus excellent performance. Also I can fix it if it breaks. The kit quality

and documentation is better than Heath Kit. By the way, they are introducing VHF and UHF converters with wonderful receive characteristics.

The K2 compromises are that extra cables and wires and adapters for antenna switching, and computer sound interface are needed. The extra wires and adapters remind me a bit of the early Radio Shack computers with external floppy, modem, CRT and maybe even hard drive, hi.

The temperature stability spec for the K2 is 80 or 100 Hz. This is better with the 2 box approach keeping the amplifier out of the main K2 box. Some people started complaining about the 80 cycle stability when the amplifier was added so they came out with a hybrid mod to replace a resistor sip that brings it back down to the 10 or 20 cycle region. Mod cost \$20! Included in new kits. I have it but have not installed it yet.

The K2 with the 100 watt amp internal would be almost exactly equivalent to the ICOM 735 but with a world class receiver and better menu control options and computer interface. By the way the K2-100 is specified down to 11 volts. The Orion is not happy below 12V at the terminals unless you reduce power. So if you like running on dead car batteries you will prefer the K2.

For DX chasing I prefer the ORION but mainly because of the dual receiver capabilities.

You may be surprised at how much reduction in band noise is provided by either of these two receivers. The low intermod front end, with narrow first roofing filter just simply eliminate a lot of the sources of noise. In addition the excellent DSP noise reduction algorithms subtract out a lot of the identifiable band noise. The ARRL has already started publishing the effects of close in strong signal rejection at 1 or 5 kHz spacing in addition to the traditional 20k spacing. See the Elecraft.com web site summary compilation of the ARRL test data on many of the better radios: http://www.elecraft.com/K2_perf.tm#MainRXTable or http://www.elecraft.com/K2_perf.htm.

The ORION ARRL data is not available yet but independent tests indicate that it will be at the top of the heap. A lot of the currently top of the line radios suffer greatly on the close in spacing tests.

Building up the K2

The K2 support (both factory and internet users group) for not allowing you to fail if you build the K2 is excellent. Just be sure to read and follow the instructions as given. Get a binocular magnifier and a temperature controlled iron with a display of the temperature like the Weller EC-2002M. There is no comparison between the head mounted binocular stereo magnifier and a bench mounted big magnifying glass.

The few people that get into trouble try to use silver or lead free solder, use solvents to clean flux, add sockets and generally do not follow the instructions. I also used a digital voltmeter and ALL Electronics Capacitance and Inductance meter to good advantage. Some of the small capacitors and inductors are hard to unambiguously identify.

K2 or Orion?

Think of the price trade off as 2 to 1 plus labor when you include all the available options. But you can get started on the basic cw only QRP K2 with a 6 to 1 differential. 5 to 1 including the tools upgrade that I mentioned. You will quickly want the DSP, noise blanker, SSB and Computer Interface options. Then you can add the portability option or the Amplifier.

If you want the amplifier in the same box, you cannot have the internal Battery or internal autotuner. The amplifier and larger autotuner integrate nicely in a single K2 size box. I really prefer it in the two box approach. If you do not need the portability then you can put the amplifier in the K2 and build the external tuner as a half height unit. This approach would save you the cost of the internal QRP tuner, battery and extra computer interface module. You cannot use (and do not need) the narrow band audio filter module with the DSP.

Used K2's are typically selling at or slightly above the cost of the kits although I just recently saw that one sold for less. The typical sale time appears to be less than one day. There are people building the kits for sale for low cost just because they love to assemble the kit. If you break a part during assembly, K2 replaces and ships typically free.

Yes, I like the K2. Yes I like the ORION. I am sure glad that I did not have to make an either/or choice.

The ORION does have a 30 day no cost (except shipping) return policy.



Ron WN3VAW (center) and Larry K3VX (right) at Corner 18 at the 2003 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. Other WASH members at the PVGP this year included N3VVL, N2QIV (happy birthday Randy!), K3OL, WA3JPP, WN3BOJ, & K9LZ.

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2003 Tippi Comden WA3JPP

Some Thoughts

Charles Harpole K4VUD
(From a VK1 Newsletter, information submitted by VK1KEP)

Here are a couple of ideas that ARRL or a big regional club could take on. I have been concerned that as a national club and especially the regional and local ham clubs seem rather self-centered, when compared to other civic clubs that do major socially valuable work, like the Lions and Rotary that do lots of good work beyond their own direct concerns.

- Work with homes for the aged to set up ham radio stations in facilities where the mentally acute but aged folks may live.... isolated and lonely and too old to do the work to set up a station. Even SWLing may be good in this application. Even more... what about a nursing home/assisted living facility WITH HAM RADIOS that is for ham residents.... like the old actors home, etc.???? We all hope to get old because the alternative is worse.
- A clearing house for Third World hams (especially non-English speakers) who have rigs broken and no way to fix them. If we USA folks want to work more DX, how about a formal mechanism for hams to register their questions and needs and a circle of knowledgeable and rich hams who may help them???? Sometimes a single \$1.00 transistor keeps a medium rare ham's rig off the air... that and difficulty in reading the English manual for repair.... Ever tried to purchase a PL-259 in Kathmandu, for example?

Postal Rate Increases

Effective 12 Jan 2004, **Canada** will increase it's rates as follows:

- Canada to Canada will increase from .48 to .49
- Canada to the US will increase from .65 to .80
- Canada to all other countries will increase from 1.25 to 1.40

As of 25 July 2003, 1USD = 1.38 CAD. Unless the USD picks up on the foreign exchange between now and January 2004, 1 USD will be a little short for sufficient postage from Canada to countries other than the US.

Uruguay increased it's rates on July 1st, 2003. Postage to the US and and other countries went from 24 peso to 36 peso. (Don't know about the rate to other SA countries) The present exchange rate is 1USD = 27 Peso, so \$1 is not enough for return postage anymore.

— Hal Bell K4HB

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

DX News Briefs



"Mali Republic, **TZ6RD**, will be on air from 12 to 23 of next August. An International Team is preparing to be on CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK, SSTV and Sat AO-40 transmitting an all bands operation from Bamako capital city of this beautiful and tropical African country. They want to reach everyplace in the world with very strong signals from Africa in a 10 days, 24 hours, all modes, all bands operation. URE, Spanish Radioamateur Association, will be the QSL manager so the QSL cards will be via EA4URE." — EA5XX

"A note to tell you that the paperwork for my recent operation as **7P8TA** July 18-25, sponsored by the Lone Star DX Association has been submitted and approved by Bill Moore, NC1L, at the DXCC desk. Color QSL cards are currently being prepared for my operation as 7P8TA. QSL labels for all 7P8TA contacts have already been printed and just wait the cards and my approving the final proofs." — WW5L

"Available log on-line of activity **CS5F** (Eu-145 Lighthouse Cabo de Santa Maria, QSL via HB9CRV/CT3FN) in the web page in http://ct1end.netpower.pt/eur145_culatra_2003/ or www.portal-dx.web.pt" — CT1END

Logs for EG9IC now available at <http://WWW.URE.ES/hf/eadx/expediciones/chafarinas/log/log.htm> — N5UR

"Mike OM2DX obtained from Iraqi PTT (thanks to Fred Matos, W3ICM) his personal callsign **YI/OM2DX** and special callsign only for Contests **YI2X**. He will be active next three years from Slovak Embassy in Baghdad. He has transceivers TS-850SAT and IC-706. Power amplifier L4B is on the way to Baghdad. In this time he is using only 100W and FD4 antenne. But he has also prepared 20m high vertical for 80 and 160m and 8 el. LP on 20-10 meters. He will be active CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK 31 on 160-6m. QSL for both callsign (also his activity as Y11BGD) via his father OM3JW." — OM3JW

"The Northern Illinois DX Association is pleased to announce the 51th annual **W9DXCC** convention at Rolling Meadows (a NW suburb of Chicago) Illinois on September 19 and 20, 2003. This will be the 50th anniversary of the first W9DXCC, initiated by Bob Baird W9NN and held in Chicago in 1953.

Our banquet speaker will be Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL CEO. Dave's topic will be the recently completed World Radio Conference 2003 from the DX'ers perspective. Dave is also Secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union, and has been instrumental in acquiring new frequencies for amateurs, as well as protecting current allocations. The complete W9DXCC schedule and on-line registration is available at the W9DXCC website: www.w9dxcc.com. Contact W9VA for info and questions. w9va@aol.com" — W9VA

Starting August 7th, new prefixes will be on the air from the Netherlands: HF, prefixes will include **PA, PB, PC, PF, PG & PI** with 1, 2 or 3 letter suffixes; VHF, prefixes are now **PD, PE & PH** — PC2A / PBØAIU

Look for DL1ASA QRV as **9H3TM** from Gozo through August 15th. He will be active on all HF bands and during the WAE contest as a single operator. QSL via the DARC bureau — VA3RJ

IK4HPU will be QRV as **ISØ/IK4HPU** August 3rd through 21st. He will operate 6 meters, and will also be operating from several islands for the Italian Island award of CEPT — VA3RJ

QSL Routes

3B8MM via DL6UAA — K4KU	LVØN via LU2NI — LU1NDC
3D2IR via DJ2MX — KU4BP	OY9UR via ON4CJI — RA3SL
3D2RK via W7TSQ — W7LPP	SØ7V via DK2WV — W9OL
4W1BK via WA2MOE — W4YCH	STØRY via DL5NAM — KK6T
5U7JK via I2YSB — W4YCH	ST2SF via IV3OWC — W4YCH
6Y5/VK2IR via DJ2MX — KU4BP	SU9NC via OM2SA — LA5HE
7P8TA via WW5L — WW5L	T3ØONM via W4WET — K4KU
9G5GA via DL3GA — W9OL	T33C via F5CWU — PA5ET
9L1AB via G3AB — K17WO	TX4PG via I2YSB — W4YCH
9N7DX via 4Z4DX — W4YCH	UK8GK via RW6HS — NØUF
A35XM via DL8YRM — K1NU	V63JE via K1ØRO — W4YCH
FM5WD via W3HNK — N1NK	VP6DIA via JR2KDN — W9OL
HI9/T93M via DJ2MX — KU4BP	VR2KF via JH1OGX — W9OL
J79RJ via DJ7RJ — WW5L	VU2TS via I1YRL — W9OL
JWØPK via SP5DRH — RA3SL	XW1N via HS6NDK — K16HT

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASH**Rag. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASH**Rag or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, July 31st, 2003 — While the FCC raised the power limit for radio frequency identification devices (RFID tags) at 13.5 MHz — and now allows somewhat more radiated emissions field strength in the range of 13.710 to 14.010 — there will be little or no impact to the Amateur Radio Service at the bottom end of 20 meters.



In a *Second Report and Order* (SR&O) and *Memorandum Opinion and Order* (MO&O) adopted June 25 and released July 17, the FCC ordered an increase to the maximum allowed field strength of unlicensed Part 15 devices that transmit data—specifically RFID tags—in the 13.553 to 13.567 MHz band from 10,000 to 15,848 $\frac{1}{4}$ V/m at 30 meters. Additionally, the devices are permitted an increase in the maximum field strength of their emissions in the range of 13.110 to 13.410 MHz and 13.710 to 14.010 MHz from the current 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ V/m to 106 $\frac{1}{4}$ V/m at 30 meters distance from the radiating source. All other spurious emissions from the devices must remain below 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ V/m at 30 meters.

While the increased strength in lower sideband harmonics of the RFDI devices creeps into the lowest 10 KHz of the 20-meter amateur CW band, ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI said there is little, if any, cause for hams to worry. "The potential impact on amateurs from this rule change is minimal," he said. "To meet the requirements at and above 14.010 MHz, these systems, in practice, would typically be less than a 1 dB worse at 14 MHz."

Several comments filed with the FCC cited the potential to interference to the Radio Astronomy Service from 13.360 to 13.410 MHz, but the commission found that under the new limits, emissions from RFID tags in the Radio Astronomy bands would be too low to cause interference with radio astronomy operations. Nor would the raised limits adversely affect existing RFID tag technology. The FCC said the changes would allow for improved operation and spur development of the RFID tag technology, as well as bring the standards in line with those in Europe and Australia.

The FCC issued the joint SR&O and MO&O in response to a Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by M/A-COM Private Radio Systems, Inc, on May 23, 2001, and a Petition for Reconsideration from the Information Technology Industry Council, filed in ET Docket 95-19 on September 3, 1997.

The FCC has announced that it now provides free wireless Internet access for visitors to its Washington, DC, Headquarters (445 12th Street SW). "When you come to the FCC, leave the cords at home," says FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell. "We're embracing the power of WiFi and the freedom and convenience of wireless Internet access it gives to consumers."

Powell directed his staff last year to take the necessary steps to make the FCC one of the first federal agencies to provide public WiFi access. Visitors bringing their own hardware and software can use the service on the Twelfth Street, Courtyard, and Eighth Floor levels of FCC Headquarters. The system uses the IEEE 802.11a and 802.11b protocols — commonly referred to as WiFi. As for tech support, however, the FCC says users are on their own.

For now, the FCC will not request personal identifying information prior to allowing access to the wireless network. If requested by outside authorities, however, the FCC will provide data from system audit logs to support external investigations of improper Internet use. In case of a system outage, users can call 202-418-WIFI

The North Hills ARC will start another semester of Amateur Radio classes on Tuesday, September 16th, at North Allegheny Senior High School, 10375 Perry Highway, Wexford. Classes for Technician and Morse start at 6:30 PM. For more information call Bill Kristoff N3BPB at 724-935-3466 or Len Thompson W3LLT at 724-776-1288

FYI NETWORKS 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!

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Fax: (412) 746-5944

gallina@usaor.net

"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:

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For Sale:

- Icom IC-756 HF/6m Transceiver with Kenwood PS-52 20A power supply and SM-8 Desk Microphone: \$1250.00
- Yaesu FT-2500M 2m 50W mobile transceiver w/tone board: \$125.00
- Yaesu FT-2400M 2m 50W mobile transceiver w/tone board: \$125.00
- Astron SS-12 Slim Line Power Supply 10A Continuous / 13A ICS (must be included with one of the above 2m mobiles): \$50.00
- Yaesu FT-51R VHF/UHF HT with case, AA battery pack: \$200.00
- Yaesu FT-50RD VHF/UHF HT (used twice) with case: \$200.00
- Kenwood TH-78A VHF/UHF HT with dual cases, speaker microphone: \$200.00
- Diamond SX-600 Dual Band SWR Power Meter: \$135.00
- Polyphaser IS-B50LU-C1 50-700 MHz Lightning Arrestor (Brand new in box, bulkhead mount): \$50.00

Instruction manuals / boxes included. No mods have been performed on the above equipment.

Bob Sanford, AA3FI 724-356-4020 sanfordb@hky.com

Wanted!

Who: Young Hams (or young at heart) especially kids, teenagers, & guests

What: Check-In to the "Under 21 / Teen Net"

When: Sunday nights at 8:30 PM (ET)

Where: On the 146.880 W3EXW/R Oakland Repeater (- offset)

Why: To encourage young Amateur Radio Operators to enjoy the hobby, to create a forum for young operators, and to spread information among all Amateur Operators

— Barbara Thompson KB3HAS, Primary NCS

26th Annual Butler Co ARA Hamfest

3rd Annual WPA ARRL Section Convention

Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Sunday, September 7th 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Butler Farm Show Grounds at Roe Airport, State Route 68, Butler PA

Talk-in on W3UDX/3 147.39 MHz

\$5 Donation for Admission (Children Under 12 Admitted Free!) — Free Parking!

Outdoor Flea Market \$5 per Vehicle/Set-Up — Indoor Flea Market \$15 per 8 Foot Table

First Prize: ICOM IC-706

Second Prize: ICOM IC-107H

Third Prize: ICOM T-90A

Fourth Prize: Lightning Bolt 5 Band HF Quad

Fifth Prize: MFJ-259 Antenna Analyzer

Mobile Check-In Until Noon on 146.52 (Mobile Check-In Prize!)

Special Events:

ARRL Representatives from Headquarters Staff., Atlantic Division & WPA Section!

Forums on a wide range of Amateur Radio Topics!

QSL Card Checking for DXCC, Worked All States, VHF & UHF Awards!

Check the web site for more information at <http://www.qsl.net/w3udx>

Hamfest Coordinator Fred Held W3FH, 168 Ivywood Road, Saxonburg PA 16056 (724) 352-9181

To Reserve Indoor Vendor Tables contact Keven Berry KF4RMA, 380 Three Degree Road, Renfrew PA

16053 (724) 586-1182 kf4rma@arrl.net

WACOM HAMFEST 2003

Free Coffee Courtesy of Ham Radio Insurance Associates

Washington County
Fairgrounds

Sunday, October 5th

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on W3CYO/R

145.490 & 443.300 MHz

VE Testing starting at 10:00 AM

Contact Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL 724-746-9235, n3zel@fyi.net

First Prize: ICOM 706 MKIIG transceiver

Second Prize: MFJ Antenna Analyzer

Third Prize: ICOM 2100 H 2m Transceiver

Check www.wacomarc.org for updates



Admission: \$3.00

Table Indoors \$10.00 — Additional Tables at \$5.00 each

Tailgating Spaces Available @ \$5.00 Each

For More Information: Jack Dayton, KA3ZLR @ 724-746-4669

Or: Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI @ 724-746-9235 n3zni@arrl.net



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: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company"

Embroidered Shirts and Hats

Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost
				Sub-Total	
				6 % Sales Tax	
				Total Enclosed	

<u>Available</u>	<u>Cost (S M L XL)</u>	<u>Cost (2X 3X 4X)</u>
Golf Shirts	\$20.00	\$22.00
Rugby Shirts	\$20.00	\$20.00
Light Jackets	tba	tba
Lined Jackets	tba	tba
Hats	\$10.00	\$10.00

Club logo is not currently available on the hats due to size limitations. Contact TLC Embroidery for more information.

Prices, availability & available colors subject to change without notice.

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

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

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

Inside This Issue:

- Annual Club Picnic News! Hope to See You There!
- It's time to start thinking about the Pennsylvania QSO Party! All Three Club Stations need your help!
- Comparing the Ten Tec Orion to the Elecraft K2... an owner's perspective.

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



Pay Attention!

(Or, you'll never see THIS photo in the official program!)

If you've ever wondered why Amateur Radio is so essential to the success of the annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, this picture of an Alfa Romeo race car just after hitting the barricade at Corner 18 (just next to the corner worker's position... note the dual band VHF/UHF antenna — yes, we're THAT close to the action) should tell you all you need to know... the driver was fine (his foot got caught between the brake & the accelerator, causing a powered slide into concrete), the car needs some body work...

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Tippi Comden WA3JPP

The WASHRag

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



N3SH / WA3SH
WP2AIQ
www.washarc.org

**Picnic
Time!**

Reminder!

**We Now Meet At the
Peters Township Library**