



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 5 Issue 9

September 2003

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

Pa QSO Party Coming!

With the 46th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party under two months away, news is coming fast and furious...

The **NP2SH** DXpedition to the US Virgin Islands is on track. W3WH reports that some of the equipment was shipped via "two hard-sided golf cases) to St. John and should be there by mid-September. W4ZE has arranged for the loan of a Force 12 antenna for the group's use. W3SRL has the future **NP2SH/B** ten meter propagation beacon ready to go into operation after the group's arrival at NP2JF's location, probably around October 8th or 9th. The beacon frequency will most likely be either 28.251 or 28.276 MHz. All of the ops we've talked to are excited about the club's first DXpedition!

Ed N3ZNI has offered to be the NP2SH QSL manager, and the DXpedition now has a web site at www.w3srl.com.

Current plans are for the **WA3SH** team headed up by KB3FZU & KB3GMU and many others to return to the Laurel Mountains site the operated so successfully last year, on the Westmoreland/Somerset County line. More information will be available at the next club meeting, but operators will be needed as always.

Because of a change of plans, the **N3SH** team (currently WN3VAW, NØPEU & K3PCF) is looking for another location, one preferably closer to home. Suggestions & additional operators are welcome!

N3IDH and other members of WACOM are planning on activating **WA3COM** from Washington County for the contest.

The Steel City ARC will again be activating **W3KWH** in the contest, and both SCARC & the Nittany ARC have proudly announced that W3KWH will be this year's Special Event Bonus station, so each QSO with W3KWH will be worth 200 points!

N3ZNI and KB3GOT are still planning to run around the state as **N3ZNI/M**. **N3KFD** plans to operate from home. **KQ3DX** is still thinking about some mobile operation, if his wedding anniversary plans don't conflict.

Made up your mind yet? If you have, let us know so that we can give credit where credit's due in the next newsletter. If you haven't, now is the time to start thinking about it.

The Wireless Association has been for over six years one of the most active SWPA clubs in the Pa QSO Party, a tradition we'd like to see continued. Why? Partly because it's good for the club. It's a great test of skills and operating, and a great way to improve them. And most importantly, because it's a heck of a lot of fun! So don't miss out! If you can't operate on your own, for whatever reason, and want to, hook up with one of the groups that will be, join in. and have a blast!

N3MSE Resigns N3SRJ New WPA SM

John Rodgers N3MSE has resigned as ARRL Western PA Section Manager, effective September 8th, 2003. He will be succeeded by Assistant SM & former Section Emergency Coordinator Rich Beaver N3SRJ of Jeannette.

John is stepping down for "personal reasons" but will remain in office through the WPA Section Convention September 7th.

Rich can be reached via email at n3srj@arrl.net.

John Rodgers N3MSE initially became WPA Section Manager in January 2000, replacing then SM Bill Edgar N3LLR, who had just been appointed Atlantic Division Vice Director (to fill the spot vacated when Bernie Fuller N3EFN moved up to Atlantic Division Director when Kay Craigie N3KN (then WT3N) became an ARRL Vice President...).

John was elected to a two-year term in his own right last fall. He has also served as President and other capacities of the Butler County ARA W3UDX, and been instrumental in the Butler Co ARA Hamfest and WPA Section Convention.

Rich Beaver N3SRJ will be serving out the remainder of N3MSE's term, which ends December 31st, 2004. In addition to being WPA ASM and SEC since February 1998, Rich has been a Public Information Officer and EC. He also was President of the Foothills ARC W3LWW in Greensburg for four years.

Our thanks for a job well done and best wishes to John N3MSE. And congratulations and good luck to Rich N3SRJ!

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

Next Meeting: September 11th, 2003

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, September 11th, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 6:30 PM.

Fall plans, PA QSO Party operations, the NP2SH DXpedition and more will all be discussed.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RN/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

Inside this issue:

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
What's a QSO Party?	5
WASH Picnic Pictures	6
Q&A on BPL	7
DX News Briefs	8
Hamfest Announcements	10

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

**September
NCS Stations:**

09/07 Paul NØVLR
09/14 Hank KB3FNM
09/21 Bell Family
09/28 Kevin N3HKQ

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:**

- WACOM Hamfest October 5th
- NP2SH DXpedition October 3rd - 13th
- Pennsylvania OSO Party October 11th & 12th
- ARRL 10 Meter Contest December 13th & 14th

September 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Butler Co ARA Hamfest & WPA Section Convention	1 Labor Day Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	2 S H B P & M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	3 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	4 WACOM Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	5 RA Erie Meeting	6 RA Erie VE Test WPA Hilltoppers VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
7 Grandparents Day Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	8 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	9 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng. WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net	10 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VFHS Meeting Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	11 WASH Meeting	12	13 North Hills ARC/Breezeshooters VE Tests 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
14 Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	15 Steel City ARC VE Test Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	16 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Junata Valley ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net	17 Huntington Co ARC Meeting SATERN VE Test Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	18 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	19 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC Meeting	20 2 Rivers ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
21 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	22 Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	23 Autumn Begins Mercer Co ARA Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	24 North Hills ARC Activity Night Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	25 WACOM Board Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	26 Rosh Hashannah Starts at Sundown	27 WASH Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
28 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net Somerset Co ARC Net North Hills ARC Teen Net WASH FM Net	29 Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	30 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	10/1 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Nite Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	10/2 WACOM Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	10/3 RA Erie Meeting NP2SH DXpedition Starts	International CB Day 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
NP2SH Trustee Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager Paul Lusardi NØVLR
NP2SH QSL Manager Ed Oelschlagel N3ZNI
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 2004 Co-Chairman Steve Lane W3SRL
(South Hills Hamfest) Bill Hill W3WH
Activities & Operating Events Bill Hill W3WH
Field Day 2004 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 N3RN/R 146.955 - PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon W3SRL/R 442.550 + PL 131.8
Echo Link #26861 (courtesy W3SRL) 443.650 + PL 131.8
Canonsburg N3BV/R

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 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.

This issue is © Copyright 2003 by the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles in this issue, provided the original author and **"The WASHRag™"** are given credit. Comments, articles, and requests for copies of or information about **"The WASHRag™"** should be mailed to the editor:

Ron Notarius WN3VAW
946 Sleepy Hollow Road
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2222

e-mail: wn3vaw@njdxa.org or wn3vaw@yahoo.com

"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2004, N3SH Net, WA3SH Net and WASHNet are TM trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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 N3RN/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 August 23rd at the re-opened **Dietz's Restaurant** in the Caste Village Shops. On hand were W4ZE, KB3FNM, KB3GMN, K3VX, KB3CPI, WN3VAW & Jessie. While marveling at the clean up job done (if you hadn't known there'd been a fire a few storefronts down, you'd never notice the difference, the restoration work was that good) topics included antenna zoning, RFI, the fate of USAirways in Pittsburgh, Walmart vs. Giant Eagle vs. IGA, auctions, and working Pittsburgh area repeaters from up North.

Don't miss out on the fun & good times! The next Club Breakfast will be at a new location down in Washington, to be announced, on September 27th. We'll be returning to **Dietz's Restaurant** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, on October October 25th! See you there!

Recognition sometimes is hard to come by. It's very easy to take for granted that certain individuals will always show up to be counted on. It's not that reliability isn't appreciated, but you just sometimes forget to tell people how much you appreciate them, and what they do, even if they're just the little things. So, let's take a moment and look over a very incomplete list of some of those who you can always count on to help keep the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION** a top-notch organization (take a bow & be recognized gang):

- Rich & Carol Danko N3SBF & KB3GMN: Where do you start? One or both of them are almost always at every club event, lending a hand to make sure things get done. Carol almost always takes charge of anything involving food and makes certain that we have enough, and that we have everything, include the little sundry items you never think about until too late. They were kind enough to make their Clarion cabin available for many years (4 out of 5) for the N3SH/WA3SH Pa QSO Party operation. Rich has been a past officer of our club, and Carol has cheerfully run our Ways & Means committee, running the 50/50 raffle, and just generally keeping us on track.
- Steve Lane W3SRL is another. Past President and Secretary, founder and Chairman or Co-Chair of our hamfest each year, co-owner of the Mt. Lebanon repeaters, the guy who almost always could find us an alternate meeting site when the Church wasn't available. When someone's got an antenna problem, there he is. Now he's set up and is running the web site for the NP2SH trip.
- You can't mention Steve without also mentioning his mainly silent partner, Pete Cole N3RNX, co-owner of the repeaters and their main "Mr. Fixit" guy. You may not see much of Pete, but trust me, he's there.
- Bob Sanford AA3FI hasn't made too many meetings etc. due to his work schedule, but the WASH web site as you know it is all his. It's Bob's personal space on the HKY computer system that hosts it, as he has done for many years.
- Mark Stabryla N3RDV has done yeoman's work as the club VP/ Treasurer these many years, making sure that we always have the funds available to do everything we wish to do.
- Dick Barney N3QMV is the man who re-wrote and updated the club by-laws and can always be counted on whenever we need him.
- Bill Hill W3WH has been the wise counsel to many club members and officers over the years, and has not only set up most of the club's operating events but has personally invested his time, money and equipment in helping to make them a success.
- Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI & Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL... almost hard to believe that these two have time for WACOM and the gun club and so many other things. Again, two people you can always count on to help set up and run events. Without them, our VE teams would probably not run anywhere as smoothly as they do. And if you enjoyed last year's Christmas/Holiday party, it's Jacqué & Carol that you can thank for it.

We've only run out of space... more to come (so if you think someone was left out, not to worry, we're going to pick this up next month! Any suggestions?)

The ARRL's Logobook of the World has been reported to go live (as opposed to beta test) with an official launch date on or about September 15th, 2003. If you have uploaded your log to LotW during the beta test, don't forget that none of the test logs will be retained in the live version, so you will have to upload them again.

WACOM Meeting September 4th To Feature Jack Layton W9UK

The next meeting of Washington Amateur Communicators (WACOM) will be held on Thursday, September 4th starting at 7:30 PM at the South Strabane #1 VFD, 1696 East Maiden Street, Washington.

Guest speaker for the evening will be professional broadcast engineer and antenna expert Jack Layton W9UK.

Talk-in on the W3CYO/R repeater, 145.490 MHz

All are welcome!

Software Updates Available for the 2003 Pennsylvania QSO Party:

Two of the many packages available for the Pa QSO Party have already been updated and are now available.

- Don KA3JWE has made his updated package available at <http://www.enter.net/~donster>
- Harry KM3D has also updated his package, now located at <http://www.km3d.com>.

OK, That Does It, I've Had It! I know, with my current schedule, I'm a little out of touch with the usual goings on via the repeaters. But I've begged, pleaded and all but sold my soul for club news... sometimes it trickles in, sometimes not. So consider yourselves put on notice: If you don't start supplying club news and goings on for this column, what you've been up to, what your friends in the club have been up to, anything at all... you're going to start reading about KO Cheerleading practices and be subjected to pictures of my kids and my dog. It's up to you... — WN3VAW

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

Minutes, August 14th Meeting

Alex Bell KB3IRQ Acting Secretary, WASH

Meeting was called to order by Shawn NØPEU at about 7:05 PM. No count of attendees reported.

Moment of silence for recent Silent Keys and other deserving parties

Motion to skip the reading of the July minutes by Steve, W3SLR, second by Hank, KB3FM Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: (none)

Repeaters (W3SRL): Repeaters are OK. Note the repeaters always transmit tones.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): Next one hopefully before Labor Day... Ron requested some one to bring a digital camera to the picnic and take pictures of the event.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Just the 50/50 for this evening. Nothing else to report.

Contests: VHF contest is coming up. The end of August is beginning of contest season. Annual PA QSO coming up in October. Frank with WA3SH (Westmoreland/Somerset) crew is in the planning stages. Somerset will need antennas and cabling if more people attend. N3SH is up for grabs, as most of the Clarion operators are going to the USVI, and the site is not available to us this year. WN3VAW & NØPEU looking into it.

US Virgin Islands DXpedition: Vanity call for the DX expedition not yet received. Had to reapply due to errors and perhaps we will know in next few days which call will be issued (*Editor's note: NP2SH call was issued on August 18th*). Tri-band beam from Force 12 (on loan, arranged by W4ZE) will be shipped down, but may not be there in time. Vertical for 40-60-80 (Larry?) Look for them on 60 meters. Bob W3RJM volunteered to be pilot station. They will try to make contacts on the California Party, DX, PA QSO. Website is online and will be updated after the vanity call is confirmed; it's at www.w3srl.com. Logs to be updated every night? Ted W4ZE volunteered to take care of this. Ed N3ZNI will be the QSL manager.

Field Day (NØPEU): Report submitted to ARRL but figures not with us tonight.

FM Net (N3HKQ): Net is running OK. A full schedule of Net Control Stations is set until the end of the year.

President (NØPEU): Server down for a week, otherwise OK. Job is OK. Still without an antenna.

Old Business: Ed N3ZNI – Meetings are at 7:00, change the reflector reminder automation back to correct time. WN3VAW will take care of this. August Picnic – Many comments offered – show of hands for attendance.

New Business: Monthly Breakfast: Motion by Carol KB3GMN to move to September 23rd due to Labor Day weekend conflict. Following discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Broadband over Power Line: Ted W4ZE offered comments – there was much discussion on the topic and it's threat to the amateur radio spectrum. Go look at ARRL website. Targeted to areas without cable already, so new lines do not have to be built. Ted moved that the proceeds of the 50/50 drawing be donated to the ARRL to fight BPL, with the club to match funds. Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn. A new motion by Bob W3RM for the club to donate \$100 from the club treasury instead. Second by Carol KB3GMN. Motion passed unanimously.

Harold KB3CPI brought up the issue of the Club ICOM radio needing repaired. More information will be needed for the HRIA insurance. Following discussion, the club agreed to spend \$50 (insurance deductible) to fix via the ICOM

Good of the Order: Kevin N3HKQ has Upgraded to Extra. He is using the club Butternut vertical, reports it works great. Steve W3SRL will repost the beacon frequencies to the reflector, and is asking club members to listen on them to see if there is any competition.

Motion to Adjourn by Ron WN3VAW, second by Hank KB3FNM carried unanimously. Meeting ended approximately 8:00 PM

WASH Spotlight



From the archives...The 1998 **N3SH ARC** Christmas / Holiday Party was a great time for all, and included a shack photo contest and attempts to work Dr. John VK3FJY (KE3XB) during his trip to Australia. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2000, 2003 Ed Salva W3VFA

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

Monthly WASH Breakfasts Saturday, September 27th

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:

A new Washington location to be announced (watch the reflector for updates!) Join us next 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 August 30th, 2003
 List compiled by
 Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

So, Just What Is a "QSO Party" Anyway?

So, you've seen it on the calendar, you've read about it here or there, you've heard some guys on one of the repeaters talking about it... and you're wondering, what the heck is a QSO Party anyway, and what specifically is up with the Pennsylvania QSO Party coming up in mid-October?

Good questions!

Well, a QSO Party is a specialized type of contest. It usually targets a specific group, mode, or geographic area, and rarely runs for an entire 48 hour period - 6, 12, 24 hour periods are very common. Most importantly, while it's a contest, it's also supposed to be a very fun operating event (hence the "Party" in the name) so that those who want to sit back, relax, and enjoy their operating can do so. It's not at all unusual to hear competitors in a QSO Party tip each other off to where a rare multiplier is located, or to stop and chat (either on the air or eyeball) right in the midst of things!

The Pennsylvania QSO Party is just such an event. Sponsored by the Nittany ARC up in State College, this year will mark the 46th Annual running of the event, making it one of the premier State QSO parties around (only the California and the Florida QSO Parties even come close to the prestige of the PA event!). It's designed to highlight operating by amateurs in and around the state, and it's meant to encourage activity from every one of the 67 counties in PA. During the weekend, you will hear stations running from home, stations running portable (often with as little as a rig, a car battery, a tuner, some wire, and a card table & chair!), and stations running mobile. You'll hear them on voice and on CW. And listen carefully, because you'll hear them having a blast!

The PA QSO Party has never, for some odd reason, been a real big event in Southwestern PA, and that's a shame. You'll hear a lot of activity and friendly rivalry from clubs and club members in Central, Easter, and Northwestern PA, all looking for bragging rights over their fellow clubs, all seeking to improve the Club Aggregate Score (the sum of all club member's and club station's score). Some of the groups up in Erie and out in & around Philadelphia, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, and Harrisburg real go all out. They all try to improve their scores from years past and put it over on the other guys — and not just for the plaque from NARC but over, sometimes, who buys who dinner at the next hamfest!

And amateurs in neighboring states, heck in every state in the country and a good bit of DX too, join in. Working on your WAS? You may just put a good dent in it or even complete it with a little bit of luck in that weekend!

Ever wonder what it feels like to be a rare DX that everyone needs? Travel to a rare or semi-rare county, especially one that everyone needs in the last few hours of the 'test, and you'll find out! Best part is, you won't need a great antenna, nor will you need a linear - barefoot works and works wonders!

Ever wonder how well a mobile can do? You can find out... you re-work mobiles as they cross county lines, and you can hear the difference as they move around.

Common Courtesy

Larry Duncan K4WLS

Early the morning of September 1st, H44VV (UA4HWX) had a nice simplex pile-up going on 7.0046 KHz. H44VV was using proper QSO exchange procedure in that in his ending QSO XMSN, he was giving the call sign of the station he had just worked and his own call sign.

A big problem, however, was that most stations trying to work H44VV were not waiting for him end his QSO exchange. Instead, they hammered their calls while H44VV was still transmitting.

Do stations doing this not realize that if H44VV is still transmitting, he cannot hear their initial calls? Also, do they not realize they are many time preventing the station that H44VV just worked from confirming his QSO? Also, do they not realize that they are blocking the call sign of H44VV, preventing other stations from getting a proper call sign ID??

It was very evident that the stations who were prematurely calling H44VV were running high power and/or high gain antennas. Oh yes, I got through to H44VV with my 100W and little Inverted Vee, but I had to use a little trick up my sleeve. I just wonder how many other "Little Pistols" didn't make it, however, because of this premature calling.

Why is it common practice these days for stations working DX to never give the call sign of the DX station they worked?? Are they trying to save time giving the opportunity for other stations to work the DX, or are they purposely omitting the call sign of the DX in order to not help another station work the DX?

I do believe that FCC Regulations still require the ID of your station and the ID of the station you are in contact with at least once during a QSO.

Just ask N3ZNI & KB3GOT what it's like - they did a bang-up job in last year's contest!

We here in the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** have been very active in the Pa QSO Party for the last 6-7 years; it's become one of the club's "signature" operating events. The last few years has also seen some renewed activity from the WACOM, the Steel City ARC and the Greene County ARC. SWPA has been given a spotlight from WA3COM, N3GC, W3KWH, and other club stations — **WASH** has often run both N3SH and WA3SH from different locations just for fun (and had a lot of it, too!)

Scoring is a lot of fun, too. You get one point for a phone contact, 1.5 for a CW one except on 160 & 80 meters, where CW counts as 2 points (why? A long story, ask W3HDDH about it). Multiply that by the number of PA counties and (for PA stations) ARRL sections you work (+1 for DX), and a power multiplier. It's pretty much that simple!

This year, there will be a spotlight on WPA activity. The "special event/bonus" station will be Steel City's W3KWH - that means that every time you work them (once per band & mode) the contact will be worth 200 points! **WASH** is planning to operate WA3SH from the Westmoreland/Somerset county line again; N3SH will be moving from Clarion to another location still being worked on; and a group will be traveling to the US Virgin Islands to activate that rare ARRL section in the contest as NP2SH! A lot of other club stations are expected on the air too. IF there are enough operators. Interested?

OK, you say, but I have a Novice, Tech, or even no ticket, so what? Well, **don't let that stop you**. Hook up with the club station and if you want, we'll get you as involved as you like. There is a Novice/Tech division, and there is quite a bit of VHF & UHF operating (expect to see WA3SH on 2 M & 70 cm simplex). There's even a "rookie" award for someone operating in their "first" contest! Point is, if you want to get involved, a way can be found.

Not sure? Come down anyway and see what it's like. You might be surprised!

Intrigued but can't make it to the N3SH or WA3SH site(s)? Turn on your HF rig anyway... or hook up with a mobile or portable setup who might be looking for an extra op. Or check with one of the other area club stations (such as W3KWH or WA3COM) to see if they're willing to squeeze in one more, they usually are!

Got a hunting cabin in Jefferson, Venango, Mercer, Lawrence, Fayette, Greene, or Fulton counties (among many others)? This might be a good time to see how well that rig will work from there... trust us!

The PA QSO Party runs from noon on Saturday, October 11 through 6 PM, Sunday October 12 (with an 8 hour break from 1 AM to 9 AM on Sunday). It's on 160 meters and up (except the WARC bands, 30, 17 & 12 meters). Complete rules and suggested frequencies and times can be found on the Pa QSO Web page at www.nittanyarc.org/paqso.html. You can find links to the history and background of the contest, of the various awards offered, how to join the PaQP reflector for last minute information, and a lot more.

Bottom line: What's a QSO Party? A heck of a lot of operating fun. What's the Pa QSO Party? One of the best weekends a PA ham can have all year.

Don't miss out! Join in on the fun!

K4UCF Evicted

Matt Collins KG4JYD

The University of Central Florida Amateur Radio Club K4UCF was evicted in June from the campus station it had occupied for 30 years.

The eviction reportedly resulted from complaints about the radio club by faculty who concluded that damage to computer equipment was from a lightning strike that entered the building through the club's antenna/tower system. According to club member Matt Kassawara KG4FEQ, the ham station is the closest facility to the antenna system and neither the station equipment nor the club repeaters were damaged by a lightning strike. The university's physical plant personnel also complained that club members worked on the roof of the building without authorization.

Although the club requested that UCF provide comparable space from which to operate, UCF administrators initially refused to accommodate the club.

Please review the detailed time-line and list of events leading up to the present situation and show your support for ham radio:

<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~wb4tcw/evictimeline.html>



5th Annual WASH Picnic!

All photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003
Jaacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Elm Grove Park in Peter's Township is only a few years old, but it's a gorgeous place. At least everyone who was able to come to this year's picnic seemed to think so!

Although the turn out was smaller than expected (about 20 club members and their families came), a great time was had by all. The companionship was fantastic, food was great, and even N3KFD had enough to eat!

The park has a covered pavilion, a soccer and baseball field, a playground area, and a modern & clean rest room nearby. Plus plenty of parking, walking areas, and trees for antenna supports...

Possibly a future Field Day site or another club activity could be held here sometime down the road?

And no, rather than try and come up with cute captions, we're just going to let the pictures speak for themselves...

Thanks again to K3OL for making the arrangements for us to use this beautiful facility this year!



What's the Deal with BPL?

Ron Notarius WN3VAW

A lot of amateurs have been following the debates and discussions over the BPL issue the last few months without fully realizing exactly what is at stake. Here's an attempt to answer a few questions about this proposed new service in layman's terms:

What is BPL? BPL stands for Broadband over Power Lines. It is a method for connecting homes to an Internet Service Provider via the electric company's power lines.

How does it work? In essence, the electric lines are used as a network cable.

What do I need in my home to connect? You need some type of isolation transformer or similar "black box" to separate the Internet communications from your actual electric power. There may also have to be similar "black boxes" connected at the pole outside your home where your power drop is connected, and elsewhere down the line.

Who can use it? Anyone connected to AC power, assuming that the electric company or provider offers the service.

Sounds great! So what's the problem? Very simply, BPL generates a tremendous amount of interference to HF frequencies. The noise level rises so much (as much as 8 or 9 "S" units or more — assuming 3 dB per "S" unit, that's 24 to 27 dB!) as to make HF communications virtually unusable.

How can that be? Very simply, the electric lines are unshielded copper (and other metals) cable. In effect, they are long wire antennas. And like any antenna, they will radiate. It's that simple!

So why doesn't my telephone line DSL have this problem? Telephone lines are normally what are called "UTP," or Unshielded Twisted Pair, lines. That means that the two lines ((ie. red & green wires) are twisted around each other, which is a type of shielding. Also, DSL doesn't run at HF frequencies, and the telephone system is a "closed" system that's not supposed to radiate.

How about my cable TV internet connection? Your cable TV connection is using shielded cable, and again, it's a closed system that's not supposed to radiate. When the system is breached (due to a bad cable, bad connector, or some other problem with the system) the cable company is supposed to fix it, since they're not allowed to interfere with over-the-air communication services.

Of course, knowing that they're required to fix it is one thing. Getting them to fix it? That's another story...

OK, so why can't the electric company just not interfere with HF then? Good question. To date, in what few test sites that this has been noticed, they haven't been able to. And the majority of the electric utilities in the country (not all) have not been known to be the most pro-active at fixing problems... just look on the ARRL web site at the many letters that the FCC's Riley Hollingsworth has had to send to various utilities to remind them of their legal obligations to fix interference.

Remember this: Fixing interference costs money. Few utilities like to spend money on what they see as a problem only one or two amateurs have — it's not cost effective.

Isn't that a little harsh? Yes. Disagree? Look up the facts and the past track records, past histories and recent cases (the ARRL is a great resource on that) and then get back to me — if I'm proven wrong, I'll apologize for that statement.

So if BPL is such a problem, why is it being proposed?

This is an educated guess on my part, after doing some research into the matter. I feel that there are two main reasons that BPL is being pushed as an Internet access solution:

One is that the cost of getting Internet access into every home is often high, especially in rural areas that lack cable TV access or that are on older telephone wiring systems that preclude DSL access. And hard wiring a direct Frame Relay or ISDN or other type of data line can be cost prohibitive (like \$800 – \$1000 or more to run the wires). But virtually every home & business has electric lines.

Second, the electric utilities want to make money just like any other business; they see their entrenched infrastructure as a cheap way of providing Internet access, requiring of them little additional investment.

So money-making is behind BPL? Sure looks that way to me.

What's wrong with the electric company making an extra buck or two? Doesn't it keep my costs down?

Well, nothing's wrong with it, but of course, they make money for the shareholders, not the customers. The problem is that they are doing so at the expense of the HF spectrum. And remember, it will destroy or neutralize HF not just for radio amateurs but for all HF users, including the military, the CB Radio service, Short Wave Listeners... everybody.

So, what if the electric companies & utilities can find a way to run BPL without all the interference? To date, they haven't demonstrated it yet, at least not to my knowledge. And keep in mind, fixing the HF interference problem may cost more to do than they're willing to spend, if it's solvable at all. Remember, the whole idea is to provide Internet service cheap (even if you pay dearly for it...)

Haven't the BPL tests shown this? My understanding, and I could be wrong, is that many of the test sites have been situated in ideal areas with few if any amateurs or other HF users. So, of course, the tests have been positive. I think they used to call that "stacking the deck" or "cooking the books..." isn't that the kind of stuff that got Enron and WorldCom into a lot of trouble?

Is the FCC in favor of this? Well, when they asked for comments, they didn't ask IF BPL should be allowed, but HOW to allow and regulate it. And I believe some of the Commissioners have made favorable comments about BPL, so I don't know... but the NTIA, which handles communication regulations for the various federal government agencies, has come out against BPL as proposed, in large part because of the HF interference concerns.

Has anyone else tried BPL? Japan and several European countries have experimented with PLC (power line communications), which is in effect the same thing. Many, possibly most, PLC tests have failed and plans have been scrapped due to the interference issue and other problems.

If BPL is implemented, what effect with HF transmitting have on BPL? You know, that's another good question, and since the testing is going on in areas bereft of amateurs, who knows? But more than a few have suggested that amateurs start buying amps to overcome the high noise level, and if it disrupts BPL, well...

But just imagine your neighbors (who are running BPL for Internet Access) being told that as Part 15 users, they can't complain if your HF operating knocks their service out. Who do you think they'll blame, the power company, or you? (Remember how often the cable company blamed the ham or CB'er for the breach in their system?) Do you really think they'll just shrug it off as "oh well" and not say anything to you? In today's litigious society?

And keep this in mind: The power companies use the 136 kHz spectrum for internal communications & systems control functions via these power lines. One of the reasons the FCC denied a domestic amateur allocation on 136 kHz was because of the potential of amateur interference. So if amateurs operating near 136 kHz can disrupt transmissions via the power lines, doesn't it stand to reason that amateur, CB, commercial, and military communications will also disrupt BPL communications on these same lines when BPL is using the same spectrum that we are?

What next? The FCC has closed the comments & reply comments periods. Now, we wait. Hopefully this is not a "slam dunk" and that the comments will be read and make an impact, and/or that there will be a hearing or three in which we can make our case.

Meantime, the ARRL is working on the problem in preparation for those hearings. If you can afford to donate funds to that cause, please do so.

What's the bottom line? IMHO:

BPL as proposed should not be implemented. Period.

If BPL, the concept, is to work, the promoters must find a way to do so without causing interference to the radio spectrum. If they can not, then BPL should never be implemented.

The cost is just too high for the proposed benefits, and HF users should not suffer just so the power company can make a buck or two.

Delayed QSL's

Fred Laun K3ZO

From time to time I have seen posts about how a QSL was suddenly and unexpectedly received many years following the QSO it was confirming. Now I find myself in the position of generating a few such cases.

My old friend and mentor Ed Bissell, W3AU, died recently, and I asked his ex-neighbor Bill Leavitt, W3AZ, not to throw out any QSLs or other papers of Ed's before I had a chance to look through them. Last week Bill delivered three big boxes of Ed's QSLs and documents to me.

Among the artifacts I picked through was a large manila envelope marked "K3EST" on the outside. Bob Cox, K3EST, was my QSL manager when I was HS1ABD back in 1978-79-80, and for a time Bob's call book address was at W3AU's QTH, since Bob for many years organized Ed's multi-multi contest efforts. So when I opened this manila envelope almost everything in it was QSL requests for HS1ABD. I guess this particular bunch of QSL requests was lost in Ed's papers and Bob never got the envelope marked for eventual delivery to him.

I still have all my HS1ABD logs and plenty of QSL blanks, so at this late date I proceeded to answer this bunch of QSLs. When I receive and answer a QSL request I mark the QSO in question in the log, so in a few cases I was able to note that the station in question had tried a second time and had gotten my QSL that time. But for about 90 percent of these requests, there was no such indication in my log.

All the requests were direct requests, with three exceptions. There were two shipments from the former W1EP QSL Service. The late W1EP operated a QSL service very similar to the one operated by WF5E these days. I have sent direct replies to the stations whose cards were forwarded to me by W1EP.

Also included was a direct airmail shipment from the Czech (OK) QSL Bureau with a whole bunch of cards from OK hams inside. I have answered these through the bureau.

In all cases I checked the operator name on the QSL card against the current holder of the call as listed on my Buckmaster Hamcall CD-ROM. In most cases the holder is still the same person though the address has changed -- we are a very mobile society. So I used the current address. In two cases it appeared that the son had taken over his father's call on his father's death, so the cards were sent to the son. And, sadly, in three or four cases it appears that the operator has become a Silent Key since he sent his QSL request, so there was no evident way for me to send the reply out.

By the way in 1980 I see that SASE's required 18 cents US postage. Yes, rates have doubled in 23 years. I happened to have a bunch of 10 cent and three cent stamps laying around so I was able to make up the difference on the SASE's with one of the former and three of the latter.

So if you receive one of these QSLs, "now you know the rest of the story" (with apologies to Paul Harvey). By the way, for anyone who never did get an HS1ABD QSL for a QSO you had with me there in 1978-80, as I say, I have plenty of blanks and all the logs, so drop me a card and I'll send an answer right back. And no, at this late date I don't require an SASE or IRC. Just send me the card and if I get it direct I'll send you one back direct if you're in the log.

I have exchanged e-mails with the current holder of HS1ABD, by the way, but he only works 2 meter FM at present. My current Thailand call sign is HSØZAR.

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



The Wireless Association of South Hills will be sponsoring its first DXpedition from October 4 through October 12, operating from St. John's in the US Virgin Islands. The group will be operating under the call **NP2SH** from the home of NP2JF, a former resident of Allegheny County. In addition to NP2JF, scheduled operators include W3WH, W3SRL, K3VX, NØVLR and W4ZE. The group plans to be active on all bands and modes as time & antennas permit, and plans also to mount a major effort in three N3ZNI; the NP2SH operators request that no cards be sent via the ARRL Incoming USVI bureau, and requests that an SASE be included with each QSL request. On-line logs are planned, and more information about the DXpedition can be found at www.w3srl.com, or email them at np2sh@yahoo.com - W4ZE

TZ6L is being operated by XE1L (one of the operators of the TZ6RD operation last month, he stayed behind to operate solo afterwards). He plans to have QSL card printed after his return to Mexico. QSL via WA3HUP - WA3HUP, K17WO

CQ3U is a special call being used by CT1AHU from Port Saint, Madeira Islands (IOTA AF-014) through September 9th. QSL via CT1AHU - CT1END

On line logs for the recent DXpedition to Lesotho & Swaziland are updated and now available at www.k4sv.com/index.html - K4SV

DJ9ZB, EA5BYP, EA5FO & 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

The ARRL has denied the petition of JA1BK & WA2MOE to remove the existing **4W Timor Leste** (ex UNAET) entity from the DXCC ranks. The existing entity remains unchanged, so if you worked a UNAET 4W6 station during the period of UN control, it will still count for Timor Leste. - ARRL

Monk Apollo is continuing to request DX'ers petition that the Greek government stop assigning the **SY** prefix anywhere except in **Mount Athos SV/A**. - VK6APK

The 51st Annual W9DXCC convention will be held September 19 & 20 at Rolling Meadows, IL. Banquet speaker will be the ARRL/IARU's K1ZZ. More information available at www.w9dxcc.com - W9VA

K5LBU is seeking operators for a DXpedition to Swaziland and/or Mozambique in the neighborhood of Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. For more information contact Frosty at www.k5lbu.com or www.dxsafari.com - K5LBU

Several DX'ers have reported problems getting QSL cards from **JT1CO** and other JT stations. Always add "via Japan" to your QSL requests to Mongolia. If the mail is routed otherwise, it has a tendency to disappear. Also, 2 green stamps are recommended to cover return postage — NT5C

DJ9ZB/**3CØF**, EA5BYP/**3CØA**, EA5FO/**3CØR** & EA5YN/**3CØV**, will be QRV on Annobon Island September 27th — October 10th. Activity will be on all bands/modes 6 - 16- meters. They hope to have at least 2 stations QRV 24/7. E-mail cayuco@telefonica.net. "Any additional donations included with QSL card requests will be much appreciated." QSL via DJ9ZB — EA5BYP

G3AB will be QRV from Christmas Island as **VK9XAB** through September 6th, mainly CW, 100 W to a dipole. QSL via G3AB — G3AB

QSL Routes

3G1A via CE4USW — W6YOO	J5UCW via IV3NVN — W9OL, WW5L
4W2DN via JR2KDN — W4YCH	J79RJ via DJ7RJ — W4YCH
5T6M via ON4ANT — K8SIX	JWØHU via SP3WVL — W4YCH
5V7VJ via G3AB — KK6T	LU5FII via WD9EWK — WD9EWK
5Z4BL via DL2RUM — K1NU, K4KU	KC4AAC via K1IED — KDØAL
7P8IZ via WØIZ — W4YCH	OA4DHW via N5FTR — W9OL
7X2RO via OM3CGN — K1NU	T5X via DJ6SI — W2GI
A35TL via DL2RUM — K1NU	TJ1GD via SP9CLQ — W8CNL
A35WE via SP9FIH — W4YCH	W9X9E via JA8VE — W9OL
CS6V via DL5AXX — W7LPF	XW2A via G3AB — KK6T
EM1U via UT5BW — CT1EEB	YI/KV4EB via KØJN — W6YOO
ET3BN via DL1JRC — K1NU	YI/OM2DX via OM3JW — OM3JW
H44VV via UA4HWX — K4WLS	Z32AF via N8RKA — W9OL
HKØGU via DL7VOG — W9OL	ZC4CW via G3AB — G3AB
J5UDX via IV3NVN — W9OL	ZWØS via PS7JN — N7HIY

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.**

HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.

P.O. Box 201
 Canonsburg, PA 15317-0201
 Toll-Free 1-800-545-8881

Fax: (412) 746-5944
gallina@usaor.net

"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:
 Radio Equipment Computer Equipment
 Antennas Rotors & Towers Computer Media & Software
 Cellular Telephones
 Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage



EcoQuest International
 "Healthy Living Technologies"
 Featuring *Living Air*, *Living Water*, & the soon to be released *WindTree*. Suffering from Allergies, Asthma, Headaches, Pet Odors, Smoke, or Bad Tasting Tap Water? Call for a FREE in-home demo and 3-day trial of *Living Air* and *Living Water*.
 Kevin F. DeRose N3KFD
 1-866-754-1331 Toll Free Overview
 1-724-348-6892 Office
kfderose@ecoquestintl.com
www.ecoquestintl.com/kfderose

OGS Distributing

— Embroidered Apparel, Printed Apparel, Dash Plaques, Award Plaques, Vinyl Graphics, Cyclo Polisher, Car Detailing Supplies. Dan KB3HVN, 6571 Zupancic Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15236, Phone (412) 655-8787, Fax (503) 218-1441, or visit the on-line catalog at <http://www.onlygoodstuff.com>



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

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, September 2nd, 2003 — The FCC has warned a former amateur licensee to stop contacting Commission personnel regarding the disposition of his Amateur Radio application. The FCC had granted Jack Gerritsen of Bell, California, a Technician license, KG6IRO, on November 8, 2001. Acting on its own motion six days later, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside Gerritsen's license after learning that he'd been convicted the previous year in state court of interfering with Los Angeles Police Department radio transmissions. The FCC also received complaints that Gerritsen had operated without a license and caused malicious interference on amateur frequencies. Gerritsen's application reverted to a pending status, and the conviction and complaint information was referred to the Enforcement Bureau for evaluation.



"The Office of Administrative Law Judges has requested we advise you that your repeated calls to those offices are in violation of the Commission's rules against *ex parte* communications," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth said in an August 14 letter to Gerritsen. "Those rules place restrictions on contacts with Commission decision-making personnel and provide sanctions for violations of those rules."

Gerritsen again was arrested in January 2002 after he allegedly made death threats on Amateur Radio frequencies and violated his parole following his 2000 conviction for interfering with police transmissions. Gerritsen had served one year of a five-year term, and the FCC alleges that, once out on parole, he resumed operating and caused deliberate interference to numerous amateur repeaters in the Los Angeles area.

At the time of arrest, the FCC said, Gerritsen had more than 20 radios--eight of them capable of operating on the amateur, marine, Land Mobile and Public Safety bands. He had a marine radio hidden in a closet with batteries connected to it, and a length of antenna line running outside his residence, the FCC said.

"The terms of the parole prohibited you from possessing radio transmitting equipment," Hollingsworth noted in his August 14 letter. In May 2002, Gerritsen was sentenced to three years in prison--with credit for good behavior, work time and time already served--but he was released early due to jail overcrowding. Hollingsworth told ARRL. Hollingsworth also said the FCC has received complaints from repeater operators alleging that Gerritsen has continued to operate without a license.

Now, Gerritsen's case appears headed for a formal hearing. Hollingsworth told Gerritsen that because the FCC needs more information before it can determine what action to take, Gerritsen will face a hearing to determine if he's qualified to hold a Commission license.

"You will have the burden of proof in this proceeding," Hollingsworth said, "and the hearing will be scheduled for Washington, DC." He said that in due course, the FCC will issue a *Hearing Designation Order* setting forth the details of the proceeding, but he admonished Gerritsen to remain patient in the meantime.

"Neither repeated calls to specific Commission employees nor calls to Commission employees at random will expedite this process," Hollingsworth said. "Any issues related to violations of Commission *ex parte* rules will be made a part of the issues to be determined in the hearing on your application."

BPL is coming to Hanover Township, Northampton County. See <http://www.mcall.com/business/local/all-plcaug30,0,2245525.story?coll=all-businesslocal-hed>
 — Steve Lawrence WB6RSE

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!

26th Annual Butler Co ARA Hamfest

3rd Annual ARRL WPA 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 ↓)

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

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

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

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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____ License Class: _____

City, State: _____ Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

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

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

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company"

Embroidered Shirts and Hats

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

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

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

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

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

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

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

Inside This Issue:

- Club Picnic Pictures!
- More on the Pennsylvania QSO Party! All Three Club Stations need your help!
- By the way, what IS a QSO Party?
- Shake up in ARRL WPA Leadership!
- A quick Q&A on BPL... a perspective on what's at stake and why you should be concerned!

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



A Hot Time in the Park

Kevin N3HKQ (foreground) works on the grill and the grilled as Dan KB3HVN (background) arrives at the annual WASH Picnic!

More picnic photos inside!

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Jaqcqué Gosselin N3ZEL

The WASHRag

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



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH
www.washarc.org