



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 5 Issue 11

November 2003

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

3 Stations, No Waiting!

The 2003 Pennsylvania QSO Party was another great time for club members of the **Wireless Association of South Hills!**

Although operators were spread a bit too thin at times between the three club stations, most of the objectives set were met. First on that list, of course, was to have a lot of fun and have a great time — which we all did!

A more detailed wrap-up, including a lot of photos and comments from the NP2SH DXpedition team, are planned for a special edition of the **WASHRag** which should be coming out sometime after the middle of November. But a quick review is certainly in order:

Team NP2SH has probably set a record for the contest that will stand for a long, long time. Operating from Plumeria, Paul NP2JF's home on St. John's, the gang included NP2JF, W3WH, K3VX, W3SRL, W4ZE, NØVLR, W6SJ, and photographer WA3JPP.

Although contacts could sometimes be tough — the bands open from Pa to VI were not always active at those times with contesters — but they still managed 362 QSO's and 64 counties for a record-setting VI Section score of 30,248. They also had 55 out of 58 counties and 412 QSO's for 56,520 points in the 2003 California QSO Party too. Congratulations!

The NP2SH DXpedition's home page is www.w3srl.com. A search log for NP2SH can be found at http://www.w4ze.com/search_logs.htm. And some of Pippi's pictures and a diary from the trip can also be found at <http://pittsburghdiary.com/travel/stjohn/>

Team N3SH operated very successfully from Frank N3XI's home in Scott Township, and again our thanks to Frank and his family for their hospitality. The operators, including NØPEU, K3PCF, WN3VAW, KB3HFP, N3XI, and KB3CPI, missed a county Clean Sweep by one (missing only Montour), but still ended up with 792 QSO's and 140 multipliers, for a net score of 113,780 points.

Team WA3SH operated from the Hermitage Reservation BSA facility in Fayette County. Again our thanks to the Greater Pittsburgh Council BSA and Director of Camping Kevin M. Dowling N2PRV for making the facility available to us. The operators, KB3IAC, KB3FZU and N3HKQ had 65 of 67 sections (only missing Greene and Montour), 55 sections, and 359.5 QSO points for a total score of 46,540.

Not a bad way to celebrate the club's Tenth Anniversary, eh? Again, more details, more pictures, what we know of from other club members and other operations, and some ideas for next year forthcoming in the special edition newsletter later this month!

Tenth Annual WASH Christmas/ Holiday Party Thursday, December 11th



The annual **WASH** Christmas/Holiday Party and December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11th at Al's Café, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park, starting at about 6:30 PM until ???.

Cost is \$15.00 per adult, \$7.50 for children 3 – 10; children under 3 are free. As always, the party is open to all **WASH** club members and their families, and friends and invited guests of the club.

If you are planning to go, please call me at (412) 884-1466 or let me know on the 146.955 repeater. I need to have the money by the end of the month.

The menu as planned (subject to change) will feature two entrees, salad, two side dishes, and desert, and there will be a cash bar available. There will again be a Chinese auction with lots of nice prizes available) and installation of the 2004 club officers.

Everything has been fantastic the last two years, and we expect it to be as good or better this year too!

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

— Carol Danko KB3GMN, Ways & Means Chairman

NP2SH

N3SH

WA3SH

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

Next Meeting: November 13th, 2003

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, October 9th, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Tonite is election night for the 2004 Officers! And our guest speaker will be ARRL WPA Section Manager Rich Beaver N3SRJ & some of his staff.

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
SKYWarn Recognition Days	5
Ohio Village Bans Towers	6
WASH 2 Meter Contest Rules	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

November & December NCS Stations:

- 11/02 Kevin N3HKQ
- 11/09 Michael KB3HFP
- 11/16 Hank KB3FNM
- 11/23 Bill W3WH
- 11/30 Bell Family
- 12/07 Kevin N3HKQ
- 12/14 Michael KB3HFP
- 12/21 Hank KB3FNM
- 12/21 Santa Claus Net!
- 12/28 Bill W3WH


Alternates & Backups
Ron WN3VAW

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

- WASH Christmas / Holiday Party, Al's Cafe, December 11th
- WASHFest 2004, February 29th

November 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Sweepstakes CW RA Erie VE Tests WPA Hilltoppers VE Tests WPA SET Drill Somerset Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
2 Sweepstakes CW Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	3 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC ARES Net Triple "A" ARA Teen Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	4 S H B P & M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap Tr Shop Net	5 Uniontown ARC Meeting Penn State ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWann Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	6 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	7 N8F Edmund Fitzgerald Special Event Elco ARC Meeting	8 Butler Co ARA VE Test NHARC/Breezeshooters VE Test Foothills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
9 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	10 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC ARES Net Triple "A" ARA Teen Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	11 Veteran's Day Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Punxsatawney AARC Meeting WACOM Net	12 North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	13 WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	14 K3CR "Hotspot" Late Night Operating Event 9 PM - 1 AM	15 Sweepstakes SSB Foothills ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
16 Sweepstakes SSB Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	17 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC ARES Net Triple "A" ARA Teen Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	18 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Juniatia Valley ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net	19 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWann Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	20 Triple "A" ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Mtng WACOM Board Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	21 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC Meeting	22 Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
23 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	24 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC ARES Net Triple "A" ARA Teen Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	25 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap Tr Shop Net	26 Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	27  28 Black Friday You know, they say that this is the busiest shopping day of the year... so if you don't have to go to the mall, don't!	29 WASH Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net	
30 CQ WW CW OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	12/1 Greater Pgh. VHF Society Mtng. Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC ARES Net Triple "A" ARA Teen Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	12/2 S H B P & M Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap Tr Shop Net	12/3 Uniontown ARC Meeting Penn State ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWann Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	12/4 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	12/5 ARRL 160 Test Elco ARC Meeting	12/6 ARRL 160 Test RA Erie VE Tests Nittany ARC Coffee Call Somerset Co ARC Breakfast 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	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 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@njdx.com 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 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 January 15th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 15th, 2004, 6:30 PM**, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqu  Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
 Pen / Pencil / Calculator
 Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
 Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
 Check or Cash in the amount of **\$12.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, April 15th, 2004
 Thursday, July 15th, 2004
 Thursday, October 21st, 2004
 Thursday, January 13th, 2005

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 the morning of October 25th at **Dietz's Restaurant** in Caste Village. Up early this time around were W3WH, N3ZNI, N3ZEL, WN3VAW, K3VX, KB3FNM & Mary Lou, and a brief "cameo" from KB3GMN & N3SBF en-route to camp. Bill & Larry talked about the NP2SH trip, and we also talked about auctions, time shares, solar flares, lost luggage, buying beer in Dayton, gesticulating with sharp instruments, code practice, bag pipes, the end of the EA8BH station, QSL'ing and stamps, on-line logs, and a curious little song from the group Pearls Before Swine called "Old Miss Morse" (anyone have a copy of it?) In short, another 90 minutes of a great time had by all!

Don't miss out on the fun & good times! The next Club Breakfast will be at **King's Family Restaurant** on Route 19 @ McClelland Road, post-Thanksgiving on November 29th, and we will return to **Dietz's Restaurant** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, post-Christmas on December 27th, ! See you there!

Members in the news: AA3FI passed along this link to an on-line version of a recent news story involving Bonnie N3VEH and Dr. John KE3XB, located at www.post-gazette.com/neighbor/washington/20031012wacraft1012p3.asp.

Thanks Bob for the tip!

Congratulations to Bob AA3FI for recently receiving his DXCC certificate from the ARRL, and to Dave W3HND for receiving his eDX e-certificate from eQSL.cc!

Elections are coming up at the November meeting. How important are they? Well, let's put it this way... if you don't care who the elected club officers are, how they run things, how they decide to spend or recommend that the club spend money, and so forth, then don't bother to come. But if you are concerned, as every active club member should be, with how things are run, and who represents the club in public, then please do come, join in the discussion(s), and cast your votes. We have some good people nominated to run for President and VP/Treasurer this year, which is always a good thing (some groups have trouble getting anyone to run, let alone good people who know how to do things) and others who may be interested but haven't decided (or been nominated) yet. So if there's only one meeting a year that you **have** to make, this is the one!

And don't forget that we have a Guest Speaker this month, new WPA Section Manager Rich Beaver N3SRJ. If you have any concerns with what's going on with the ARRL Field Organization here in the section (including ARES issues), now is the time to talk to Rich and find out the straight scoop right from the source!

The Illusion of Privacy: Several club members have expressed concerns recently about the back issues of the **WASHRag** that are available on-line. What has prompted this is recent improvements to many search engines that are now advertised as being able to display personal information (such as phone number and address — don't believe it? Go to a search engine and do a search on your phone number, you may be shocked by what you see) stored within the newsletter, such as for-sale or hamfest-related information. Now one can debate how "private" anything is anymore, if indeed it ever was... but the point here is how to handle this so that we don't restrict access to the old newsletters to those who'd like to read them, yet keep "private" or "personal" information out of the reach of those search engines. We may have to remove some or most of the old newsletters temporarily until a better method surfaces; hopefully it won't come to that. If you know of some way to do this (including the **ROBOTS.TXT** file configuration), please contact Shawn N0PEU, who is maintaining the newsletter archive for the club.

Yes, it's that time of year again... the end of the year means we're only a few weeks away from the **WASH 2 Meter Contest** and **WASHFest 2004!** Rules for the contest are on Page 7, the early hamfest flyer on Page 10. Don't forget, 2004 has FIVE Sundays — **WASHFest 2004** is on the LAST one!

October 16th VE Test Results

We had two candidates at our October 16th VEC test session, held at the Peters Township Library in McMurray (Peters Township). Both of the candidates successfully earned new licenses!

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

Technician w/HF: Hank Marzina KB3FNM
 General: Carl Lancaster KB3FZS

WASH VE Team:
 Dave Wagner KB3GOT
 Jeff Farrar W3JAF
 Jacqu  Gosselin N3ZEL
 Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI

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, Jacqu  Gosselin N3ZEL

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Considering the number of Breezeshooter's in Western Pennsylvania, it's sometimes surprising how little WPA activity you often see in the annual ARRL 10 Meter Contest! In any event, I'm looking either for a QTH to borrow for some or all of the weekend, or a few other operators who'd like to put forth a small group effort in this year's event! If interested, please e-mail me at wn3vaw@njdx.org or get ahold of me at the meeting or on the repeater sometime in the next few weeks!

—73, Ron WN3VAW

Lance Armstrong, bootlegger? A curious post recently appeared on eHam.net alleging that Armstrong's **Tour de France** team was bootlegging in the amateur bands! But following the link supporting the story revealed only that the team had used modified Alinco "credit card" dual-band HT's... no mention of the exact frequency and no real proof that anything improper had taken place in France!

Moral: Don't always believe everything you read online!

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

Minutes, October 9th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/ Secretary, **WASH**

Shawn, NØPEU, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:05 hours. There were 18 members and guests in attendance.

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

Introductions were then made all around, as is our custom.

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the September meeting as published in the October newsletter. It was made by Ron, WN3VAW, and seconded by Dan, KB3HVN. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark submitted a report which was read to those in attendance.

Secretary (KB3FZU): The library has sent us an application for the room. Frank will fill out tonight and leave it at the front desk.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session will be next Thursday, October 16th.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): No Report.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): The Net Control Stations have been scheduled until the end of the year. Thanks to all of the net control stations.

Activities & Contests: Ron, WN3VAW - The PA QSO is this weekend. N3SH will run from Frank, N3XI's QTH. N3SH will run a multi-operator single radio. The contest starts at noon on Saturday, runs until 1 AM, then starts up again at 9 AM Sunday and finishes at 6 PM. This year's bonus station is W3KWH. Our club's goal is to work all 67 counties and have fun. Rick, KB3IAC, has secured the Boy Scouts of America's Heritage Reservation facility, located in Fayette County, for the WA3SH operation. Kevin, N3HKQ, has secured permission and made arrangements to use WACOM's trailer. We plan to have at least 3 radios & operators.

The annual Christmas Party will be at Al's Café. The cost to members will be the same as it was last year - \$15.00. It will be on the regular meeting night in December - Thursday, December 11th.

Public Service (N3RDV): No Report.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): The October newsletter is out in electronic form. Currently, paper copies of the newsletter are not available. Please send any special QSO party or DXpedition information to Ron so that he can put together a special newsletter for those events.

President's Report (NØPEU): Shawn is looking to obtain the club's antenna analyzer so that he may do some antenna work. New WPA Section Manager, Rich Beaver N3SRJ, will be the guest speaker at the November meeting.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Nominations - Treasurer & President.

Shawn, NØPEU, opened the nominations for president. **W3WH**, Bill was **nominated to run as president** by Ron, WN3VAW, and seconded by Kevin, N3HKQ.

After discussion and no other nominations Ron, WN3VAW, made a motion to close nominations for president. Hank, KB3FNM, seconded that motion. It was voted on and passed unanimously.

Shawn, NØPEU, opened the nominations for treasurer. **KB3GMN**, Carol was **nominated to run as treasurer** by Ron, WN3VAW, and seconded by Kevin, N3HKQ. Mark, **N3RDV**, was **nominated to run as treasurer** by Dick, N3QMV, and seconded by Ed, N3ZNI. After discussion and no other nominations Kevin, N3HKQ, made a motion to close nominations for treasurer. Ron, WN3VAW, seconded that motion. It was voted on and passed unanimously.

The Wireless Association of South Hills will meet at the Peters Township Library at 7 PM for the 2004 Season on the second Thursday of each month. The VE Sessions will also be held at the Peters Township Library beginning at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month every quarter starting in January. This

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 5)

WASH Spotlight



As you can see, Paul NØVLR was hard at work during the NP2SH trip.

(OK, so the caption is a little lame, but considering how many people wanted to see this photo published in the newsletter, can you do any better? Best one submitted will be used in the special edition!)

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Tippi Comden WA3JPP

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 Breakfast Saturday, November 29th

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually 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, and next month at **King's Family Restaurant**, Route 19 at McClelland Road, Cannonsburg. 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	KE3XB	N3RHT	N8DPW	Barbara Misis
AA3JS	KB3GMN	KE7FD	N3RNX	W3GEL	David Delmonico
AB3AB	KB3GMO	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3HND	
K3BZW	KB3GMP	KQ3DX	N3SRC	W3JAF	
K3JDS	KB3GMU	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3RJM	Silent Keys
K3LIE	KB3GOT	NØVLR	N3UE	W3RWS	K3EED
K3OL	KB3GZG	NØWVP	N3UIW	W3SRL	KB3ENX
K3PCF	KB3GUZ	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3VE	KB3FQT
K3VX	KB3HFP	N3AWF	N3WPT	W3VFA	N3KEH
K3WR	KB3HVN	N3BSQ	N3XFE	W3WH	N3OBD
K9LZ	KB3IAC	N3CZZ	N3XI	W4ZE	N3SKR
KA3PPH	KB3ICC	N3FZ	N3YPB	W8LEV	W3ZLK
KA3TFB	KB3IJX	N3HKQ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	
KA3TWI	KB3IRQ	N3IDH	N3ZCG	WB3BPH	Color Codes:
KA3UPY	KB3IVV	N3INT	N3ZEG	WB3GTL	2003 Member
KA3WZO	KB3IVX	N3KFD	N3ZEH	WN3BOJ	2002 Member
KA3YTS	KB3QX	N3MJQ	N3ZEL	WN3VAW	2001 Member
KB3ANH	KC2JJB	N3PN	N3ZNI	WO3Z	2000 Member
KB3CPI	KC6VLV	N3QMV	N4MIS		
KB3DCO	KD3JV	N3RDV	NP2JF		
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 October 31st, 2003

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

SKYWarn Recognition Day

David Floyd N5DBZ, NWS Goodland, KS

The fifth annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 6, 2003. This is the day that Amateur Radio operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather, and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.

Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. "You simply can't put a price tag on it", says Scott Mentzer (NØQE), organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas. "The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable".

SKYWARN Recognition Day this year will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on December 6th, 2003. Scott Mentzer, the creator and promoter of the event, strives to involve more NWS offices and Amateur Radio operators each year. In 2002, participants logged nearly 23,000 QSOs during the 24-hour event. Last year nearly 70 countries were contacted. To learn more about this year's event, check out the NOAA Web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>. This site includes a link to a list of participating National Weather Service offices and their call signs.

Questions concerning this event can be directed to Larry Boyd, KØILB, at larry.boyd@noaa.gov.

A Little Nostalgia

Larry M. Duncan K4WLS

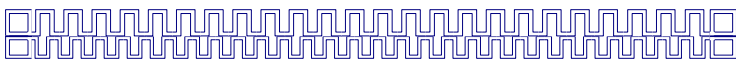
If you would like to bring back a little nostalgia and re-live your Novice days, turn down your keyer speed and come on down to 30 Meters. 30 Meters seems to be a very popular band for the new hams dipping their feet in the CW waters for the first time and those honing their CW skills.

Most of these Operators have an excellent signal and they really appreciate a QSO, especially from the older, more experienced hams.

Remember your Novice days when everyone always traded QSL cards? Well, just offer your card by saying, "QSL via QRZ.Com, and I will send my card right back." Sit back and watch your mail box fill up. In the past two months, I have

accumulated a stack of about sixty cards, and I am not far from WAS. Also, you get some very nice, appreciative comments on the incoming cards. Also 7040 KHz on 40 Meters (a favorite spot for QRP operators too — Editor) seems to be another favorite spot for newcomers to the CW sport

Jump in, have some fun, and help further the CW cause !!



(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

motion was formed by the group in attendance and made by Ed, N3ZNI, seconded by Kevin, N3HKQ. It was voted on and passed unanimously.

Good of the Order: Ron, WN3VAW – We need to get back in the habit of having speakers at the meetings. There was discussion on that topic. Ed, N3ZNI, - In January, we will sponsor the FM 2-meter contest and in February WACOM will have a special event station (W3C applied for) at the Washington County Sportsmen Show for four days at the Washington Mall. It will run Thursday through Sunday. In a conversation with Steve, Ron said that Steve said that the Ohio hamfest that is usually on the same date as ours has been moved to the spring. This means that ours is the only hamfest on the calendar for that weekend. The exact date should be finalized soon.

Ed N3ZNI has WACOM Calendar Tickets

Greg, KQ3DX, has reserved 6 rooms at the University of Dayton. Please let him know if you plan to use these accommodations for the Dayton Hamvention.

A **Motion to Adjourn** was made by Kevin, N3HKQ, and seconded by Ed, N3ZNI. The motion was voted on and passed. The **meeting was adjourned** at 19:52.

Unique Amateur Radio Program Opens in Albania

Marti Laine OH2BH

It has long been thought that systematically integrating different age groups and educational levels into an amateur radio course with modern training concepts is the key to regaining a positive intake of new hams. Amateur radio has much to offer today's youth, but it first becomes necessary to correctly tune into the a world constantly competing for young people's attention.

This coming Sunday, November 9th, an International Amateur Radio (IARU) Region 1 supported course in Albania will commence under the sponsorship of Mr. Spartak Poci, the Minister of Telecommunications and in cooperation with the Polytechnic University of Tirana. Thirty-four third and fourth year students will begin a five-week course of study culminating in a CEPT license examination. A unique part of this program is that Amateur Radio is being integrated into the regular University course offerings using an advanced Radio Society of Great Britain study package as a reference.

Each week of this program in Tirana will benefit from the efforts of invited professional educators from the amateur radio community of specific countries. The countries involved in this five-week program will be Albania, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Macedonia, Spain, Sweden and the United States. In total, some fifty amateur radio operators, drawn mainly the DX and contesting communities, will travel to ZA. The core organizing team consists of 4X6KJ, DL6LAU, EA1QF, G3LQP, I2MQP, K7WX, OH2BH, OH2PM, & ZA1B.

The first week will feature Italy and the United Kingdom. It will be taught by Professor Giorgio Goggi, I2KMG and Professor John Share, G3OKA, representing the University of Pavia and the University of Liverpool as well as Italy's ARI and the UK's RSGB. John Share, G3OKA will serve as a lead-teacher for the first three-weeks and be succeeded by Uli Weiss, DJ2YA from Germany.

The second week segment of the course will feature the United States. It will be lead by Dr. Warren Hill, K7WX and taught under the supervision of Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA. Representing the ARRL, team members Dan Brown N7DB, Rich Chatelain, K7ZV, Robin Critchel WA6CDR, Dr. Paul Rubenfeld WF5T and Professor Don Wilson K6RKE will hands-on operating practices and cover the topics of the Earth's magnetic field, the mysteries of radio propagation, practical antennas, the role of amateur radio in society, FCC/CEPT examinations, transmitter interference, QSL practices and successful DXpeditioning.

During this five-week period, ZA1A will be active on many bands and in a variety of modes while demonstrating amateur radio to local telecom and education administrators, as well as to the students. Multiple locations will be used and several Yaesu donated stations may be active at the same time.

After the course, all equipment will be serving the amateur community. During the first week, you will find in Tirana: I2KMG, I2MQP, EA1QF, OH2BE, OH2BH, DL6LAU, DL7AJA, G3OKA, G3LQP and Z35M.

The progress of the entire project can be followed on the Internet at <http://www.za1a.com>. ZA1A QSL via OH2BH.

This educational program is supported by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 with additional support from the ARI, ARRL, RSGB, IARC, URE and the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF), Vertex Standard Co. Ltd (Yaesu), Fluidmotion Inc. (SteppIR beams), Malev Airlines and Rogner Europark Hotel in Tirana.

On October 26th, the O'Hara E-Comm Team fired up a new SWPPG node at the Parkview VFD in O'Hara Township, PA.

This new node will provide reliable data communications in and about the O'Hara Township Area (as well as much of the Pittsburgh area North of the City) and should be accessible via low power from many of the areas mentioned. An HT, TNC and old computer may be all you need to get into the system, so please spread the word.

Thanks again to all who made this happen, especially Gino (WA3IOU) and the Southwest PA Packet Group <http://www.swppg.zelie.com/index2.html>, who were kind enough to provide the Radio and TNC for this important project.

The new node, KB3FXI-2 (alias PARK) is on 145.09 MHz, 1200 BPS. It's running 35 watts to a Copper J-Pole antenna at 1150 feet elevation, at coordinates 40° 30.07'N, 79° 55.87'W.

— David Kleber, KB3FXI

Project Star Reach

Nigel Peacock G4KIU courtesy of www.eham.net

The Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) is pleased to announce Project Star Reach, a large-scale DXpedition to Rodrigues Island, 3B9. FSDXA is the group which brought you the very successful 9M0C DXpedition to the Spratly Islands in February 1998 and the subsequent record-breaking D68C DXpedition to the Comoros in February 2001.

The centerpiece of Project Star Reach will be a major DXpedition to Rodrigues Island, to take place next March/April. However, the project also encompasses a range of other activities both before and after the DXpedition itself, including magazine articles showing newcomers to HF how to work DX. The DXpedition will also be a test-bed for StarLog and StarServer, a software system designed specifically to facilitate major DXpeditions of this sort.

The callsign 3B9C has already been assigned, and the plan is for an operation encompassing over three weeks of operation, including four weekends. The first members of the team will arrive in 3B9 on Tuesday 16th March 2004, and expect to spend the first two to three days installing antennas and equipment.

Operations will commence before the weekend. Station breakdown will start on Monday 12th April, though operations may continue for a further day or two after.

There are two main and several subsidiary objectives:

- To provide the possibility for every amateur radio station in the world — even those running QRP or a very simple antenna — to make at least one contact with 3B9C
- To enable top DXers to put 3B9C in their log on as many bands and modes as possible. It should be possible for top DXers active on all bands and on all main modes to work 3B9C on at least 20 band / mode slots!

Subsidiary aims and objectives:

- To use the DXpedition as a focus for increasing interest in HF amateur radio, especially among those new to HF, through magazine articles, presentations, an awards program with categories for both new and experienced operators and clubs, etc.
- To use the skills of team members to help the islanders of Rodrigues through various activities currently in the planning stages
- To test the StarSoftware server-based DXpedition software in the most demanding of environments, with a view to making it available to other DXpeditions in the years to come.
- To encourage activity on all bands and modes at a time when decreasing sunspots may be causing some operators to lose interest in HF and 6m.
- To be one of the first major DXpeditions to link fully with the ARRL's "Logbook of the World" initiative.
- By setting and maintaining high standards of operation, to uphold and demonstrate the highest standards of DXing practice.
- To encourage amateurs to explore new bands and modes, by being readily workable on all bands and modes over an extended period (one of the pleasant surprises with D68C was the way in which many HF operators made their first forays on to PSK31 and on to 10m FM especially to work the DXpedition). Specialist modes will include AO-40, EME and SSTV.

The last major activity from Rodrigues Island was the 3B9R DXpedition of 1999, which made some 47,000 QSOs. Since then this semi-rare DX entity has been activated almost exclusively by its one resident amateur, Robert 3B9FR. With the best will in the world, one individual cannot meet the world's needs for a DXCC entity, and 3B9 has worked its way back up the "Most Wanted" lists.

For those who are into statistics, Rodrigues stands at number 81 in the 2002 world-wide listing of 'Most-Wanted' DXCC entities, published by the DX Magazine. However, for specific areas of the world and specific modes, it ranks much higher, for example 27th in Europe for SSB, and between 30th and 50th in the central regions of the USA on both SSB and CW. It also ranks high on the RTTY "Wanted" lists. It should also be borne in mind that many of the higher-ranked countries in the 2002 survey have since been the target of substantial DXpeditions, likely to have brought them below Rodrigues in the rankings.

In any case, our experience with D68C suggests that not too much credence should be given to the "Most-Wanted" lists, as only a statistically small number of DXers respond to the annual questionnaires. These tend to be those DXers on or near the Honor Roll, whereas in 'real life' very many more DXers will call a DXpedition than would be imagined from its ranking on the "Most Wanted" lists.

3B9C will build on the experiences gained during the D68C and 9M0C operations (and distilled into the successful book "DXpeditioning Behind the Scenes" — see below), to give both seasoned DXers and "Little Pistols" a wide range of opportunities to work Rodrigues on many bands and modes. The date of the

Ohio Village Bans Tower

Bob Straley W8KT courtesy of www.eham.net and www.qrz.com

I have recently found out that the village of Leipsic, OH is against ALL radio transmitting stations locating in the village! This includes television, broadcast radio, cellular, citizens band and AMATEUR RADIO!

In all fairness to the village, I must state that the 20 foot height is for freestanding towers. You can have a tower attached to your home and the tower AND antenna can be 20 feet above the house. Keep in mind that the ordinances allow only two story homes, and that a large diamond or other vertical antenna will eat up all of the 20 feet you are allowed. I did not want to cause confusion on this point, my installation is planned for two freestanding towers, one for the repeater antennas, and one for the rotating beam.

As many of you know, I have operated open repeaters here in Leipsic for several years. I have recently moved back into a home built by my family where I lived as a child. This home is about 1000 feet from my last home. One reason I bought this home was the large lot it came with that I planned on using for a better, safer antenna installation for my repeaters and other ham activities. Since moving here I applied for a permit to erect my towers on my property. I got a rude awakening! The new zoning ordinances were passed in January of this year. The council passed them as an "emergency" measure. This got them enacted without the required readings to the public, so that citizens of Leipsic had no idea and NO SAY in the text of the ordinances. The reason given on the document was "This ordinance constitutes an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and, therefore, shall go into immediate effect upon passage thereof." I ask all of you, have you ever used your radio, tower or other associated equipment to disrupt the public peace or the health and safety of our community?

I have pressed on in my quest to again be able to supply not only Leipsic, but the county with reliable repeater service for the general well being and emergency communication we are all dedicated to. On Tuesday, October 28th, I had a meeting with the Leipsic planning commission to discuss my application to erect my towers. After an hour of presenting the facts that not only myself and my wife, but many of you are involved in Skywarn, ARES, RACES, and other public service activities, I was turned down. I explained the cost we bear to provide equipment and the extensive training we take to get licensed, but also the hours we volunteer for skywarn and other training and activities. Unfortunately, this too fell on deaf ears. I mentioned Tom Ridge's comments that amateurs are one of the first lines of defense for our country and was told by one member (a fireman) that they weren't interested in homeland security, that they didn't want "these things" (towers) popping up all over town. This type of comments from those we have appointed to serve in the best interest of our community! The three people that voted no were the three firemen on the commission!

I have received a volume of mail and comments about PRB-1. The village has already looked at this and submitted it to the village solicitor. As of now, they are unconcerned and believe that it does not apply.

DXpedition has been chosen with propagation forecasts in mind, and spans the spring equinox. Good propagation to all major areas is expected on all bands from LF through 10 metres.

3B9C will have up to fifteen high-power HF stations active simultaneously when band conditions allow. Activities will encompass SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31 and, as appropriate, FM. There will also be satellite activity and possible EME. Large monoband antennas will be used on all bands, including a full-size two-element Yagi for 30m. There will be capability for working simultaneously on more than one mode on 10, 15, 20 and 80 metres when these bands are open. On LF we will use two phased pairs of Titanex verticals on 80m, one pair for CW and one for SSB. 40m will rely on our tried and tested 4-square array. 160m operation will utilise the well-known Titanex verticals, with various loops and Beverages for receive. Full details of the equipment and antennas will be given in a subsequent bulletin. Some 3 tonnes of equipment will be sea-freighted by container to 3B9 ahead of the DXpedition to allow the team to put on an operation of this scale.

By operating over four weekends, the team expects to be able to work through the demand for Rodrigues to the point where even the most modestly equipped stations will have a good chance of contacts on several bands. The extended period of operation also opens up the opportunity for a 3B9C entry in the CQ WPX SSB Contest and, perhaps, other contest events taking place during that period.

More information is or will become available on the DXpedition web site, www.fsdxa.com/3b9c

Secret of the GAP Antennas?

Stuart Rohre K5KVH

If you go to GAP at a ham convention booth, they likely will give you the copy of the same paper they handed out at Ham Com; which showed the theory of the Gap antennas. They are "asymmetrical vertical dipoles", as the paper in IEEE transactions called it. Originally, they were designed for one band use as AM broadcast shortened antennas. They have been used in South America for this purpose.

They also get multibands by linear loading and linear decouplers on the basic dipole. To get 80m, and a match there, they use the old standard stub matching section. To make it short enough to fit inside the dipole tubing, they simply load the end opposite the end that bridges the dipole feedpoint. It is loaded with one of several fixed capacitors you can select to tune a certain 100 kHz segment of 80m or 75m of your choosing. The "gap" is the dipole off center feedpoint on these antennas. (One analogy is a Windom style antenna turned vertical.)

That is almost all there is to it, but one other neat trick is in the Titan model. To get good efficiency on 40m they make half of the dipole actually have a quarter wave of radiator on 40m. They do this by extending the lower half of the dipole half element with a radial rod connected at its end to a wire that goes around to other insulated ends of radial rods and finally joins an insulated line that joins to a similar conductor originating from the antenna end rod and going the opposite way around the base. This forms a big square, 30 feet of which is on 40m, and a shorter piece that completes resonance for 10m.

When I built mine, I used an MFJ 259 to see which pieces caused resonance on which bands. The GAP models are a clever use of basic principles of antennas.

Since one end of the vertical is going to couple more to the ground, by capacitance; thus to get a 50 ohm feed point, you do not have to feed the dipole exactly in the center. The lower half dipole can be shorter than the upper half. But to get the feedpoint to look like 50 ohms on all bands, you have to electrically shorten the half elements on higher bands. The linear decoupler is a stub made up of half of the dipole and a rod spaced apart. Several of these take care of various bands, 20m, 15m 17m, 30m, etc.

Another neat antenna is the Ten Tec terminated Vee beams that come in two models. They are on the web site along with a good instruction manual showing how they work with antenna patterns for various installations. \

One model has two 100 foot legs and the other has 50 foot legs. The beam feature comes into play on bands where the leg is at least one wavelength long. Otherwise they are an inverted Vee with the legs spaced closer than normal. Terminating a Vee beam makes it uni-directional. Leaving off terminations will give you a bi-directional pattern through the feedpoint V, although they do not mention that. (But ARRL Handbook does starting in at least 1942 edition, up to at least 1957).

Fishing and chasing DX have much in common. The big one often gets away.

— Jack Ritter WØUCE

WASH Apparel Updates!

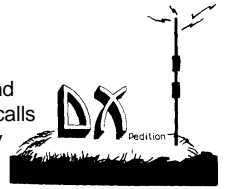
Dan KB3HVN & OGN Distributing are continuing to work on the upcoming web page link to permit WASH club members to order shirts, jackets, hats, and whatever direct from the club web page.

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 if desired at a small additional cost.

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

DX News Briefs

VE3IKV will be active from Sint Maarten **PJ7**, Saba **PJ6** and Saint Martin **FS** between November 8th and 15th using the calls **PJ7/VA3RA/m**, **FS/VA3RA/m** and **PJ6/VA3RA/m**. Activity will be mainly 10 and 6 meters, CW/SSB. QSL via VE3 bureau (slow) or direct (fast) — OPDX, VA3RJ



The **3CØV** DXpedition was forced to cease operations October 3rd on orders from local military personnel on Annobon, despite having the proper civilian and military authorizations and a license. The operators were expelled to the capitol on a few hours notice, which caused some things to be left behind. All of the operators are now home safely. Details are not being released to prevent problems with the authorities during a future return trip. More info & a link to on-line logs can be found at <http://www.tabarca.es.mn> — EA5YN

Interested in reading about **CY9** St. Paul Island? There's a new book by Bill Budge, VE1AAO: "Memoirs of a Lightkeeper's Son - Life on St. Paul Island." He can be reached at: VE1AAO@ns.sympatico.ca — VE1AL

KU9C requests that if you find a discrepancy with the 2003 **BQ9P** on-line log, put it in writing along with your card. Only send 2003 BQ9P cards in your envelope; asking for additional cards at the same time only delays his in response — KU9C

Look for CEØY/SP9PT and CEØY/SP9EVP to be QRV as **CE3/SP9PT/m** and **CE3/SP9EVP/m** between November 1st to 8th while visiting the Atacama Desert. QSL via home calls — 425 DX, VA3RJ

"I finally found the **QSL card storage containers** that I think are just right. The product is made by Rubbermaid and is there new series of containers that is finally the right size and is stackable both empty and full. The model # is: 3C30 and called Clear Impressions Shoe Box. Make sure you get this new style and not the older type which I used for a while but is too small. This has an inside dimension of 4.5"H x 6.5"W x 11" D. It will hold the larger cards and also the dividers very nicely. The full stock number is: L3-3C30-PO-CLR. I purchased them at Lowes for about \$1.25 each and includes the covers" — W9IXX

3B9/PAØVHA (RTTY) and **3B9/PA3BAG** (SSB) will be QRV from Rodrigues Island between November 10th to 14th. QSL via PAØVHA. **3B8/ON5AX** will be QRV from Mauritius November 6th to 15th, QSL via ON5AX —VA3RJ, 425 DX

A Hungarian team will be QRV as **EA6/HA5RT/P** from November 2nd — 9th. They plan to operate in the HA-QRP contest. Look for them running ~10 Watts on or about 3511 kHz. QSL via HA6NL — OPDX

3B8/ON4LAC is QRV until November 23rd, mainly on 20/15 meters on SSB and PSK. He will head to Reunion Island to be active as **FR5/ON4LAC** November 26th — December 15th. He will return to Mauritius and will be active again between December 17th and 27th — ON4LAC, OPDX

K5LBU is looking for operators to join him on a trip to **3DAØ** in March. If interested contact Frosty at frosty1@pdq.net — K5LBU, OPDX

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

17 meter aficionados got a surprise when "**VU4BH**" appeared on the band on October 3rd, claiming to be famed DX'er Martti Laine OH2BH doing a demonstration for local officials. However, Martti was actually at home at the time, working on the Albania 2003 Project — DL7RAG, KF2TI, W3UR

QSL Routes

3B9MM via DL6UAA — RA3SL
4J6ZZ via UT3UY — RA3SL
4W3DX via TF3MM — W4YCH
5JØX via N1WON — W4WX
7Q7CE via IN3VZE — JQ2GYU
7P8NK via VA7DX — W4YCH
7XØAD via EA4URE — K1NU
9J2BO via G3TEV — W9OL
9L1JT via K4ZIN — KZ2I
BQ9P via KU9C — KU9C
C98DC via DL7AFS — RA3SL
CN8NK via EA5XX — W2IRT
EM1U via UT7UA — RA3SL
FH/G4IRN via G4IRN — W7LFP
J43GRC via K6HRO — SV3BEF

LU1DZ/P via EA3RE — LU6EF
PZ5A via W5UE — W5UE
TF8GX via KT6YL — W9OL
TM7W via F6BBL — F6BBL
TO5A via F5VHJ — W6DRB
V26OC via N3OC — KA2AEV
V26R via KA2AEV — KA2AEV
V85SK via G4IRN — JQ2GYU
VK9XY via DH1SGS — W2GI
VP2EJF via K5MR — K5MR, G3SWH
VP2MPF via W9IXX — W9IXX
XY3C via DL4KQ — RA3SL
YI/KV4EB via KØJN — W9OL
YO2LEA via K3PD — W9OL
ZM1G via ZL1CN — KU4BP

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>



FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, October 29th, 2003 — In the latest chapter in the continuing saga of former amateur licensee Jack Gerritsen, ex-KG6IRO, of Bell, California, the FCC now has set aside Gerritsen's General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license.

The FCC wrote Gerritsen October 15th that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau took the action based on Gerritsen's alleged "continuing unlicensed operation and complaints of deliberate interference from transmitters you operate." Amateur Radio repeater operators in the Los Angeles area have complained to the FCC that Gerritsen has been attempting to access their machines using the ham radio call sign he'd held for about a week in 2001. Gerritsen also held the GMRS call sign WPYR 527.



The FCC said Gerritsen's GMRS application has reverted to pending status, the same as his Amateur Radio license application. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth told Gerritsen that the FCC will make the GMRS application part of the record when it holds a hearing to determine if Gerritsen is qualified to be a Commission licensee.

Hollingsworth reminded Gerritsen that he has no authority to operate radio transmitting equipment and that such operation would be a violation of §301 of the Communications Act of 1934. "We suggest you consult an attorney in this matter," Hollingsworth concluded.

In August, the FCC warned Gerritsen to refrain from contacting Commission personnel regarding the disposition of his Amateur Radio application. In 2001, the FCC set aside Gerritsen's ham ticket six days after granting it 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.

The FCC alleges that when Gerritsen was paroled after serving one year of a five-year sentence, he resumed operating and caused deliberate interference to numerous amateur repeaters in the Los Angeles area. 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 said the FCC continues to investigate the amateur interference allegations, but he recently expressed frustration that Gerritsen was released from prison with no conditions or restrictions "even regarding radio, which is what he was in there for in the first place," he said.

Hollingsworth says the FCC also is looking into a complaint that two stations in the Tidewater area of Virginia intentionally interfered with a station in North Carolina. The FCC has written Jeffrey Polen, KR4IS, and David Dunlap, KA4OEY, asking them to respond to the allegations by Cliff Fox, KU4GW. Fox alleged that stations identifying as KR4IS and KA4OEY had interfered with an ongoing communication he was having with a mobile station on September 9 on 75 meters.

Some solid teamwork between the FCC and the ARRL and accurate direction-finding led some Amateur Radio volunteers to the source of an unidentified and continuous string of dits being transmitted without identification on 14.024.8 MHz. The situation last week was eerily similar to one more than three years ago, when another volunteer eventually tracked down another "ditter" on the West Coast that had plagued 20 meters.

After receiving reports of the more recent signal, ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, found he was able to copy it from ARRL Headquarters. The ARRL called upon the FCC's HF Direction Finding (HFDF) facility in Maryland to get a bearing on the signal.

"Really aggravating," is how the facility's Betty Mallay, KL7AP, described it. "Of course, it doesn't help when others try to 'dit-dit-dit' along with it," she added wryly.

The HFDF facility was able to localize the signal's source to vicinity of Houston, Texas. Skolaut then called on ARRL South Texas Official Observer Coordinator Carl Griffin, KA5KQZ, to see if any of his volunteers had direction-finding equipment that could pin it down.

Two of them—who prefer to remain anonymous—took on the challenge. Their DFing led to a location in a Houston suburb that was within three miles of where the FCC's HFDF facility said it would be.

As in the earlier case, "Ditter II" apparently had no idea his station was transmitting. "I called him on the phone, and he went and checked the station and it had something up against the keyer," one of the volunteers said in his report to Griffin. "He was embarrassed." Left unanswered was why the unidentified amateur's transmitter was powered up and ready to transmit in the first place.

Dayton Hamvention® 2004

University of Dayton Room Reservations

Greg KQ3DX has again reserved six suites again at the University of Dayton for Hamvention 2004. Those who've stayed there the last few years know how nice they are! If you are interested in joining us this year, please contact Greg at kq3dx@hotmail.com for more information on costs and availability.



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 six years!

Now in our NINTH big year!



WASHfest 2004

The South Hills Hamfest

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

Sunday, February 29th, 2003

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

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

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

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



(800) 545-8881

**Breakfast & Lunch provided
by Jack's Catering
of Peters Township**

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

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

(prizes to be announced)

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

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

For reservations, or information, Contact:

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

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

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

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

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



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2004



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:

- A quick review of the '03 Pa QSO Party!
- Elections Are Coming This Month!
- Amateur Radio On The Move in ZA!
- Ohio Community Bans Antennas!
- Rules, 2004 **WASH** 2 Meter Contest!
- **WASHFest 2004** Is Coming **Feb. 29th**!

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



Pennsylvania QSO Party: Hard at Work at NP2SH

Larry Comden KP2/K3VX hard at work, late Saturday Night, at the NP2SH DXpedition during the contest.

(Ah, we think it's probably best that we let the rest of the picture speak for itself, since W3SRL knows where the editor lives...)

More on the club results from this year's test inside the newsletter, but a special edition of the newsletter is planned for later this month, so if you have any pictures or stories, now is the time to send them in to the editor for inclusion!

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Tippi Comden WA3JPP

The *WASH*Rag

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

**November
Meeting:
Election of 2004
Officers!
Guest Speaker
Rich N3SRJ**