



WASHRAG™

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Volume 5 Issue 12

December 2003

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

2004 President W3WH

N3RDV Re-Elected VP/Treasurer



Bill W3WH

At our November 2003 meeting, Bill Hill W3WH was unanimously elected to serve as President of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** for a one year term for 2004, and Mark Stabryla N3RDV was re-elected as the club's Vice President/Treasurer for a 2 year term covering 2004 through 2005.

Bill has been a long time and very active member of the club for years. He has served at various times as co-chairman of **WASHFest** and Field Day, hosted the N3SH club station for the Pa QSO Party, operated the one of the club stations in the contest (including the Clarion County ops in past years), and helped organize and successfully operate this year's NP2SH club DXpedition to the US Virgin Islands. He has also been the chair of the Operating Events & Activities committee and been responsible for many guest speakers and other club events running smoothly. Bill has also been a past officer of WACOM and other amateur organizations. He has some great plans for the club for the upcoming year and is looking forward to having another great year together with all of us!



Mark N3RDV

Mark has also been a long time member of the club, and has served us well as our VP/Treasurer dating back to when we were known by our original name! Although work and other activities have kept him away from recent meetings, Mark is very active in many of our club operating events, and is especially busy during each & every **WASHFest** keeping track of the finances and making certain that nothing gets lost. Very few clubs or organizations have someone around like Mark, and it's very easy to take all of his hard work for granted.

Bill & Mark, along with current VP/Secretary Frank KB3FZU, are our 2004 Club Executive Committee (elected officers). Congratulations to them all, and we're looking forward to a great year together!



Frank
KB3FZU

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 Cafe**, 440 Mc Murray 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. As of deadline, we have over 30 people planning to attend!

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 December 4th (make the check out to me, not the club).

The menu as planned (subject to change) will feature Fried Chicken & Sirloin Beef, salad, broccoli and new potatoes as 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

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Next Meeting: December 11th, 2003

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be our annual Christmas/Holiday Party on Thursday, December 11th, at **Al's Cafe**, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park, starting at 6:30 PM.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RN/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited! Tickets are \$15.00 per adult, \$7.50 per child 3 – 10 (under 3 free) and must be purchased in advance from Carol KB3GMN — they are not available at the door on the 11th.

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

November & December NCS Stations:

12/07 Kevin N3HKQ
12/14 Michael KB3HFP
12/21 Hank KB3FNM
12/21 **Santa Claus Net!**
12/28 Bill W3WH

01/04 Bell Family
01/11 Kevin N3HKQ
01/18 Michael KB3HFP
01/25 Hank KB3FNM






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:

- 4th WASH 2 Meter Contest January 10th
- WPRC Mtng. January 18th
- WASHFest 04 February 29th
- 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest March 14th

December 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Greater Pgh VHFS Meeting Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net	2 S H B P & M Meeting Skyview RS Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap & Shop Net	3 Uniontown ARC Meeting Penn State ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarr Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	4 WACOM Election Meeting & Christmas Party RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	5 ARRL 160 M Contest Eico ARS Meeting SKYWarr Recognition Day	6 ARRL 160 M Contest RA Erie VE Test Beaver Valley ARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast 2 Rivers ARC Holiday Dinner Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
7 ARRL 160 M Contest Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	8 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net	9 2 Rivers ARC VE Test Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Punxsatawney AARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net	10 North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PS Group Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtng. Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	11 WASH Christmas / Holiday Party Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	12	13 ARRL 10 M Contest NHARC/Breezeshooters VE 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
14 ARRL 10 M Contest South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	15 Steel City ARC VE Test OCWA Pittsburgh Meeting Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net	16 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net	17 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarr Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	18 Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	19 Quad Co ARC Meeting 	20 2 Rivers ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
21 Elk Co ARC Meeting South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH SANTA Net WASH FM Net	22 Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net	23 Triangle ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap & Shop Net	24 Christmas Eve Fort Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	25 	26 	27 WASH Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
28 South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	29 Breezeshooter's Net Beaver Co Public Service Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARA Net	30 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap & Shop Net	31 Straight Key Night Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net 	1/2 Eico ARS Meeting 	1/3 RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net	

WASH 2004 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	William R. Hill W3WH
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
WASH FM Net Manager	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASH Digital Net Manager	(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 & BEACONS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX/R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
		Echo Link #26861 (courtesy W3SRL)	
Canonsburg	N3BV/R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH/B	28.276 MHz	

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)**

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3BV/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Shawn Djernes NØPEU for providing space on-line for back issues of **"The WASHRag™"** which can be found at www.washarc.org or www.djernes.org/washrag

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test 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

Former WPA SM John Rodgers N3MSE has been named as an Assistant Director to the ARRL Atlantic Division by Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN. John's primary responsibility will be to help develop quality training materials to be used by clubs and ARRL members within the division. Congratulations John!

It's been pointed out to me that participation in the Sunday net has been dwindling. I must admit that it's kind of boring unless someone has an announcement or two. An idea I have is that at least every couple of weeks we should have a discussion covering a topic of interest to all of us.

Thus to begin, next week we'll talk about : **CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE TO THE CLUB**

This can include things to be added, discontinued, modified or whatever. You get the idea-This is to be a completely open forum. It will only be worthwhile if you participate. It will take place next Sunday at 2100 local on the .955 and .650 repeaters. Be there!

— Bill Hill W3WH

ARRL 10 Meter Contest (Update)

Thanks to Bill W3WH, my request last month for a QTH borrow in order to operate in the contest has been answered! However, at deadline, I still don't know my work schedule for that weekend (I've asked for both days off, that doesn't mean I'll get them) so exact operating details are still in flux. But if you're still interested in helping to operate a small effort in this year's event, please e-mail me at wn3vaw@njdx.org or get a hold of me on the repeater sometime in the next few days!

—73, Ron WN3VAW

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 run some of those in future newsletters!!

Amidst lousy November weather, a small delegation from **The WASH Breakfast Gang** got together on the morning of November 29th at **King's Family Restaurant**, US19 at McClelland Road outside of Cannonsburg. Caste Village. Braving the weather were W8LEV, N3ZNI, N3ZEL, W4ZE, W3WH, KB3CPI, & N3HKQ. Discussion topics included Harold's new IC-718, Grounding, lack of quality TV Shows, Smoking and of course the weather. "All in all, a relatively unexciting breakfast" reported new **WASH** President W3WH.

Well, they can't all be fun sometimes, but still, don't miss out, especially when you can let us know what Santa brought you! The next Club Breakfast will be at **Dietz's Restaurant** (now under new ownership!) in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, post-Christmas on December 27th. We will return to **King's Family Restaurant** on Route 19 @ McClelland Road, post-Thanksgiving on January 31st! See you there!

Can you believe that another year is almost over? Well one of the big surprises is that instead of the usual big splash you might have expected, our 10th Anniversary Year actually went by pretty quietly. Outside of the tie-in with the NP2SH trip, we really didn't make a big splash. Wonder why? Maybe it's because overall as a group, we tend to look forward, not dwell on the past — and that's a good thing. Still, if you have any favorite memories or tall tales, we'll still make room for them somewhere!

Speaking of NP2SH, yes, the Special Edition isn't quite ready yet (that's why Special Editions come out when they come out!). We've been waiting for some material that's only just come in (including a group photo, courtesy of N0VLR, that hasn't been seen much yet). Shouldn't be too much longer!

Now is the time, in addition to all of the holiday cheer going on, to start reminding people that 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! Some early reports put it on the FOURTH Sunday. Usually they're one & the same, but not in 2004!

Special thanks again to Rich N3SRJ and Bob N3WAV for coming to our November meeting and talking to us about BPL and a general overview of Amateur Radio in the WPA Section. Thanks also for coming along to Melanie KB3GHM, Rich's YF, who was also his navigator. Funny thing, though, is that Bob, who is a former member of WASH, is the one who got lost en-route to the meeting! Careful Bob, or we'll start calling you "Paul 2!" (just kidding!)

Also at the meeting, Rich announced that Ye Editor has been asked to start a new WPA Section Newsletter (*what do you know, after all these years, someone finally took me up on the offer!* —Ed.). At the moment, the details of how this newsletter will look, how it will be distributed, and whether or not it will also be available in HTML are up in the air. Meantime, if you have any thoughts or suggestions for a name, send them this way!

Check your address book: Local ISP Stargate has been broken up by the Bankruptcy Court and sold off in pieces. The piece containing the local users was sold to EarthLink. As a result, most former Stargate users that stayed with Earthlink are getting new e-mail addresses; others who decided to change ISP's are also getting new ones. There's no telling how long forwarding from Stargate (and the former USA OnRamp) addresses will last, so watch your email for change notices from your friends!

WASH Net Control Stations Wanted: Our Net Manager, Kevin N3HKQ, is trying to put together the new NCS schedule for the weekly club FM net starting in January. "New net control stations are welcome to be put on the schedule. If you have been thinking about it but are not sure you want to commit to a schedule, you may try being NCS once and let me know what later. Whether you want to try being an NCS once or put on a schedule please let me know via email before December 14th." Kevin can be reached at kev.in.j.smith@comcast.net or on the .955 or .650 repeaters.

Happy Holidays to One and All — From the Wireless Association of South Hills

Minutes, November 13th Meeting

Larry Comden K3VX, Acting Secretary, **WASH**

Ron WN3VAW, sitting in for Shawn, NØPEU, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:01 hours. There were 22 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 October meeting as published in the November newsletter. It was made by Ed N3ZNI and seconded by Rich N3SBF. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark submitted a report which was read to those in attendance. He also reported that we have changed banks due to an ownership change at our old bank.

Secretary (KB3FZU): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Two candidates upgraded at the last session including Hank KB3FNM (applause). The next VE session will be next Thursday, January 15th.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): "They work."

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): The Net Control Stations have been scheduled until the end of the year. Schedule for January and beyond being worked on. Additional NCS stations could be used. Thanks to all of the net control stations.

Contests: 2 Meter contest on for January, no major changes in the rules (N3ZNI, WN3VAW). Upcoming contests include CQ WW CV, ARRL 160 Meters, ARRL 10 Meters, Straight Key Night, Breezeshooters Groundwave CW & SSB. Ron WN3VAW is planning to operate the 10 meter contest from W3WH's QTH, if anyone else is interested in operating, see him.

Activities: (KB3GMN) 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. 28+ people to date are signed up to attend. Menu includes Fried Chicken, Sirloin Beef as entrees, broccoli & new potatoes as vegetables, salad, ice cream for dessert. A cash bar will be available. Carol & Jacqué are doing another Chinese auction.

Public Service (N3RDV): No Report.

WASHFest 2004: Correct date is February 29th (last Sunday) not 22nd (4th Sunday)

Newsletter (WN3VAW): Nothing new.

President's Report (NØPEU): No report.

Old Business: No old business.

Elections: Nominations from October meeting were Bill W3WH for President, Carol KB3GMN and Mark N3RDV for VP/Secretary. Nominations re-opened. Ron WN3VAW reported that Bill W3WH will accept Presidency, regrets he is home with the flu. KB3GMN declined nomination for VP/Treasurer. WN3VAW nominated for President, declined, No further nominations. Move to close nominations by Ed N3ZNI, second by Glen KE7FD, passed with N3UE dissenting,. Motion for Secretary to cast one vote for Bill W3WH for President, and one for Mark N3RDV for VP/Secretary, Hank KB3FNM, second by Carol KB3GMU, passed unanimously.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order: Larry K3VX has some free printers available for the taking. Ed N3UE wanted to talk to whomever had questions about setting FM rig deviation. Ed N3ZNI has received ~180 QSL cards for NP2SH (actual count the next day, 166). Carol KB3GMN will hold a 50/50 after the meeting.

A **Motion to Adjourn** was made by Kevin, N3HKQ, and seconded by Carol KB3GMN. The motion was voted on and passed. The **meeting was adjourned** at 19:28.

Following a 5 minute break and the 50/50 drawing, Guest Speakers ARRL WPA SM Rich N3SRJ and WPA ASM Bob N3WAV gave their presentations and answered questions.

WASH Spotlight



Thanks again to our November guest speakers, ARRL WPA SM Rich N3SRJ (left) and ASM Bob N3WAV (below).



Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZNI

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 wn3vav@njdx.com.

Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, December 27th

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	N3CFZ	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					

Through November 30th, 2003
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Back Issues of the WASHRag have a new home on the web:
www.djernes.org/washrag
Thanks NØPEU for providing the new site!

A "Power Mite" Odyssey

John Wiseman KE3QG courtesy of the Ten Tec Reflector at contesting.com

Back in 1969 and '70, my dad used to go to the local radio store in Peoria to get crystals for his police radio. While there, I fell in love with a Midland 11-500 SW/AM table radio. That radio got me going into the hobby of radio, and later, electronics in general.

After discovering "hams" on both of our radios, I started to investigate that hobby. "Too expensive", said Dad. "Too weird", said Mom. But I found an ad in the back of one of the ARRL publications that Dad bought me at the radio store for a Ten Tec Power Mite.

Man, I loved the looks of that radio. Simple, elegant lines. It didn't do phone, but hey, I could live with that for a while. After all, the price was right. So I sent away for the catalog. Even today, I still have the booklet with the torn out coupon missing. But it never happened

Unfortunately, I had no Elmer. I had no idea what the theory questions were asking for, and I was unable to learn more than a few Morse characters from the series of records that Dad had bought me during his latest trip to the radio store.

Eventually, motorcycles and girls came on the scene, and the ham radio dream got put on hold for a while. About 15 years, actually.

Fast forward to 2003. After being fairly inactive for several years, I started getting into QRP homebrewing. What a thrill it was to work stations with a radio of my own design and construction! Then the nostalgia bug hit. I still had my original Midland, but it hadn't worked in years. Changing all the electrolytics, realigning the tuned inputs, and changing the dial lights brought the old radio back to life, in full splendor.

At the same time, I had been looking on Ebay for some parts for my son's minibike. Glancing around in the amateur radio section, I saw a new listing for a mint Ten Tec Power Mite 2. There were 6 days left in the auction, but I decided right then that this radio was meant to live in my shack. 6 days later, after a final flurry of last-second bidding, it was mine for \$142.50.

It was in better shape than I hoped for when it finally came, in its original box, with the original manual and schematic. Like an episode from the Twilight Zone, I thought for a moment that I was 15 years old again.

Over the next few days, I cleaned it up, fixed a few crusted over switches and aligned the oscillator with my scope and frequency counter. Hey, this thing might just work after all. I even got it putting out a whole 1 watt peak power on 40 meters. Then reality hit me. I had never used a Direct Conversion receiver before! What's a "zero beat"? Receive on the Upper Sideband? Hey, I'm a SuperHet guy...

So I practiced zeroing in on strong signals, and again tuned the oscillator so I could hear the receiver and transmitter oscillator on a close-by Icom rig. It seemed to me that this thing was alive. But I turned it on at night, and Whoaaaaa, baby! Every SW station on 40 meters came blaring through. I could hardly hear any CW. Obviously, this receiver is not of the quality of even my first homebrew. OK, daytime might be the ticket here.

And of course on Saturday afternoon, things were much better. The band was fairly active with lots of east coast stations on, so I figured it's now or never. I started calling CQ. After the 2nd try, I was stunned to hear W2BVH return to me. I was so floored that this thing had actually worked, that my code copy speed instantly lost over 5 wpm, and I barely got his call! He patiently explained to me that other than a 100 Hz. random frequency shift, all else was well. Thanks Lenny for putting up with my nervous fist on a straight key!

After tuning around a bit I came across a very interesting sounding CW signal that had quite a bit of chirp in it. I got the call as NX2ND, and looked it up. Interesting - a WWII submarine now a permanent museum, and with all restored original radio equipment. I had to work this one on the little Power Mite, so I called him when he finished his current QSO. Again, success! He came right back to me and I found it quite appropriate that our two aging radios were managing to do quite well together.

But what a thrill! So many years later, to actually get my Power Mite, and to successfully put it on the air has been one of the highlights of my radio days. But as I thought about it, I realized that there was NO WAY that I could have used this radio as a kid! I never would have figured out the nuances of Direct Conversion, or how to tune the oscillator. It's probably just as well that I never did mow enough lawns to afford it back in '70.

But I finally have it, and now it resides in a place of honor in my shack, right next to my fully restored, original Midland radio. Life is good.

Who says you can never go home again?

OSCAR 14 Operations Cease

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, November 11th, 2003--The UO-14 satellite has been declared officially dead. The Mission Control Centre at the Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) Center for Satellite Engineering Research reports that the venerable and popular bird "has reached the end of its mission after nearly 14 years in orbit."

Launched in 1990, UoSAT-OSCAR-14 pioneered the PACSAT communication concept as the first 9.6 kbps Amateur Radio data communications satellite, although it became best known in recent years as an FM "easy sat" repeater.

"Since launch, UO-14 has completed over 72,000 orbits and as many charge/discharge cycles of its on-board NiCd battery," said AMSAT-UK Chairman Martin Sweeting, G3YJO. "However recently one of the battery cells has become exhausted and can no longer support continuous operation of the repeater." Sweeting said UO-14's transmitter shuts down shortly after it is commanded "on" due to undervoltage, so the microsatellite's mission has been terminated.

"Thank you UO-14 for your long service!" Sweeting concluded.

AMSAT-NA Board Member Bruce Paige, KK5DO, an enthusiastic UO-14 user, called the AMSAT-UK announcement "sad news."

The popular and heavily used FM satellite quit working in August, but hope remained within the amateur satellite community that UO-14 somehow could be revived. Ground controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN, at one point was able to reset the satellite, but he later determined that UO-14 had suffered a primary power system failure that was causing the spacecraft to shut down during some eclipses.

During its active lifetime, UO-14 served several roles. After some 18 months in orbit as a PACSAT, UO-14 was switched to non-amateur frequencies for humanitarian use by Volunteers In Technical Assistance, which used it for messaging into Africa. After the store-and-forward communications computer proved no longer able to perform that task, UO-14 was turned back to amateur use as a single-channel FM voice repeater, the role for which it was best known. UO-14 worked as an "FM bent pipe repeater satellite" in full duplex mode.

UO-14 again served a humanitarian role in early 2001 when hams assisting with earthquake relief operations in the Indian State of Gujarat took advantage of the satellite to provide communication from the stricken region.

The beauty of UO-14 was that it required minimal gear to make contacts — typically 5 Watts and modest antennas would do the trick. Operators with dual-band handheld transceivers and "rubber duckie" antennas often could make QSOs via UO-14.

AMSAT-NA has said that its new ECHO satellite, planned for launch next March 31st, will take over the role of the now-defunct AO-27 and UO-14 Low-Earth-Orbiting (LEO) satellites.



Silent Keys



Len Marino W3IOH, 62, Stanton Heights, November 7th
 Marian Kristoff, wife of Bill Kristoff N3BPB, Wexford, November 21st
 Danny Weil ex-VP2VB, YASME DXpeditioner, October 3rd

Ohio Village Tower Ban Overturned! (Variance Granted)

Bob Straley W8KT courtesy of www.qrz.com

Editor's Note: In last month's issue we reported on the tower ban that W8KT ran into when he moved back into his family home. On November 3rd Bob had a hearing before the Village of Leipsic (OH) Council on his request for a variance in order to erect three Amateur Radio antenna towers. Here is his report on what happened... and it is almost a textbook case on how to properly approach such requests in the future:

First, let me say that I approached this matter with great fervor. I spent all weekend and a few other evenings on the Internet searching for documents I could use to explain my various arguments. I started with the package that I had prepared for the zoning commission that contained some background info on what ham radio is and a couple of articles I found on actual emergency situations that hams helped with. Also included were basic papers on what SKYWam, ARES, and RACES are. Rounding out my initial package was a copy of PRB-1.

Next, I searched the web for copies of zoning ordinances that were similar to the ordinances here. I found quite a few as it seems in Ohio many cities use a "boilerplate" document and insert the correct names and code numbers. Most of the copies I found had a disclaimer in the "telecommunications station" section stating that amateur radio towers and stations were exempt from these ordinances. I argued that this statement was because of PRB-1 and that "possibly" an error had occurred at the printer and this line was accidentally left out.

Next, since the village thought I was a "telecommunications facility" I searched for documents dealing with this subject. I found a list of telecommunications providers in Ohio and of course there were no hams included. I also found a description of a telecommunications facility on the FCC website that stated it was a station designed for the connection of portable communications to the land based phone network. The last document of this type was an application for a telecommunications license from the FCC. This document gave the sections numbers of the code that covered cellular providers. I read the council the opening page of the section of the zoning ordinances they were using to keep my towers down, and the basics were "The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of wireless telecommunication facilities and their support structures in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, while at the same time not unreasonably interfering with the development of the competitive wireless telecommunications marketplace in the village." I also presented the section of part 97 that says that amateur radio operators cannot be paid etc, etc. Then I argued that since I was not allowed to be compensated for my operations by their own definition, I could not be a telecommunications provider because I am not allowed to "compete". I also asked them to find in the application where Part 97 was listed.

Next, I had downloaded several texts of case law based on PRB-1 and zoning ordinances. I also presented one that a ham sent to me about his case. Of course the only cases I could find were the ones where PRB-1 prevailed. There was a case of a Kentucky ham that was tried in the Sixth District Federal Court, the same jurisdiction my case would be handled in. I presented these to the village solicitor since he attended the meeting. I argued that PRB-1 was very successful in court and that since the sixth district had already voted in favor of PRB-1 in the Kentucky case, they were unlikely to change their mind in mine. I also furnished the section out of Part 97 covering towers and antennas.

When I wasn't on the net looking for documents, I was on the phone and email. First, I sent a copy of the letter posted here to a few local ham friends and asked them to send it to all the hams they knew. I called the county EMA office and asked the director if he could write a general letter on his (and the county's) support for ham radio. I called the county EOC and asked him for a letter attesting to my participation in the county ARES program. I received a very nice letter from both of these offices. I called the National Weather Service and asked if they could send a letter attesting to the fact that my wife and I were trained spotters and participated in nets during bad weather. Let me say that the Weather Service REALLY supports ham radio. I received a very nice letter from them about our training and our repeater. I asked my old neighbors to write a short letter on any interference issues they had with my old station. (I knew there had only been one problem in 13 years.) I asked my old neighbors to attend the meeting if possible.

I dressed nice for the meeting and arrived early. I picked a seat right in the front so the council could see my wife and I. Soon several of my ham friends arrived. Then my old neighbors. Then the main complainers about my wish to install my towers arrived. Soon the room was nearly full and it was meeting time. I presented all the items listed previously and spent about an hour speaking and distributing papers. Things were going well. Then came time for my new neighbor. They made quite a show about how I would devalue their property and what a nuisance I would be. But, they came sloppily dressed and were ill prepared after the presentation I had made, and had no facts to back up their side of things.

Now it was time for the decision. There was almost no discussion and then a long pause. Finally one councilman made a motion to accept my application for a variance up to the variance limit. (I had originally asked for three towers, one sixty foot, one fifty foot, and one forty foot. During the zoning meeting I had offered to only erect two, the sixty and the fifty, hoping it would help my argument. Now I had a motion to go to the variance limit! The variance limit was one hundred feet! Now my heart was really beating! There was quite a long pause waiting for a second to the motion, but finally it came. The roll was called and one by one the councilmen voted. Soon they had all voted and I could hardly believe my ears, my variance passed by a unanimous vote! Now, I can erect three towers, up to the variance limit if I want!

I guess my feeling on this is; if you have this type of problem, prepare yourself! There was no denying the evidence I had presented and I maintained my cool while doing so. I feel that I only made it past this hurdle by really thinking through the situation and presenting my arguments in a rational calm manner with plenty of paper to back them up. If I lived in a larger city or had went any further up the ladder I would have defiantly gotten a lawyer, however my perseverance paid off and now I am free to enjoy the greatest hobby in the world, amateur radio!!!



A Nice Touch

Andrew Roos ZS1AN courtesy of www.eham.net

I am fortunate to live in, and operate from, the beautiful city of Cape Town, South Africa. Although ZS isn't exactly rare DX, there are enough operators who still need ZS (especially on CW) that I often attract a mini pileup and can easily "run" 20 or 30 stations in succession.

A couple of days ago I was doing just that after getting home from work on a lovely spring evening. I was operating on 15-meters CW, working mostly European stations but with a few US stations reporting unexpectedly strong signals from my 100 W and dipole.

I was working in a condensed QSO format -- not just signal reports, I like to swap names at least to make it more personal, but I was trying to keep the rate up so I could work as many of the waiting stations as possible.

I quite enjoy this -- not all the time, I also have my own country-hunting to do, and also enjoy more relaxed ragchews. But "running" is still enjoyable, despite the occasional idiot who tunes up dead on frequency or can't stop calling while you're in the middle of a QSO.

Anyway after 45 minutes or so, having worked about twenty stations, my wife ZR1SC called me. I always like to tell stations waiting to work me if I have to stop operating, so when I had finished my next QSO I sent "XYL CALLING ME FOR DINNER MUST QRT NW 73 ES CUL DE ZS1AN".

Of course several of the waiting stations continued to call me -- either because they hadn't copied my last transmission, or because they were still hoping for a QSO before I shut down. But that wasn't about to happen -- when I say QRT, I mean QRT, gotta keep the discipline you know...

Then I heard "73 DE N9HT". Just that, no request for a QSO, a simple "thank you and goodbye" from an operator who had clearly been copying me and was polite enough not to continue trying to hustle a QSO.

I quickly scanned my last few contacts, saw that I hadn't worked him yet, and shot off "N9HT 599 BK" and he came back with "599 TU DE N9HT". That's all; 10 seconds and we didn't even exchange names.

The next day I received an email from him, thanking me for the contact and saying he needed ZS for his 15-meter DXCC. We agreed to exchange QSLs direct, and I posted mine the same day.

I've just finished reading W9KNI's excellent book "The Complete DXer", which is full of operating tips for DXers. It is a superb book that I happily recommend to all aspiring DXers. But N9HT taught me a technique that isn't mentioned in the book. He simply listened, and was polite and friendly. And that was enough to get him the QSO and the QSL he wanted. And leave me with a pleasant memory of the session.

Nice touch OM.

4th Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Fourth Annual WASH 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Remember: In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the IC-706 and FT-100, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Ah, wait 'till next year!)

Everyone who participated in it the last three years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 10th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 10th, 2002 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 11th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band

FM: FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, every 15 kHz, from 146.535 to 146.595 MHz, and 147.405 to 147.585 MHz. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, and simplex frequencies below that are **not** to be used.

CW: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

SSB: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

Exchange: Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of WASH or a Club Station. For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code.

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts: Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below .
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

Scoring: Each Contact, non WASH Member: 1 point
 WASH Member: 2 points
 (*) Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes
Power: Stations running 10 watts or less: 2
 Stations running over 10 watts: 1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power


(*) "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. They include **N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible..

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the WASH web site, www.washarc.org, after December 1st.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the shack
 The rig was turned off and the mike cord lay slack.
 The antenna rotor had made its last turn,
 The tubes in the linear have long ceased to burn.
 I sat there relaxing and took off my specs,
 Preparing to daydream of armchair DX,
 When suddenly outside I heard such a sound,
 I dashed out the door to see what was around.
 The moon shone down brightly and lighted the night-
 For sure, propagation for the low bands was right.
 I peered towards the roof where I heard all the racket,
 And there was some guy in a red, fur-trimmed jacket.
 I stood there perplexed in a manner quite giddy.
 Just who was this stranger - di di dah dah di di?
 He looked very much like an FCC guy,
 Who'd come to check up on some bad TVI.
 I shouted to him, "OM, QRZ"
 "Hey, you by the chimney, all dressed up in red."
 I suddenly knew when I heard sleigh bells jingle.
 The guy on the rooftop was jolly Kris Kringle.
 He had a big sack full of amateur gear,
 Which made a big load for a prancing reindeer.
 Transmitters, receivers, for cabinets and racks,
 Some meters and scopes and a lot of co-ax.
 He said not a word 'cause he'd finished his work
 He picked up his sack, then he turned with a jerk.
 As he leaped to his sleigh, he shouted with glee,
 And I knew in a moment he'd be QRT.
 But I heard him transmit as he flew o'er the trees
 "Happy Christmas to all, and to all 73!"
 (original author unknown, courtesy of the Kenwood reflector)

OH9SCL Santa Claus Land will be again active during this December from the Arctic circle.



This year there will be a special activity period between 17th until 21th December. Operation will be active CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31 & SSTV, 80 through 10 Meters. The main focus of digital modes will be during the weekend.

The persons willing to help Santa this year are OH2BH, OH2NWG, OH3BHL, OH9KL, OH9MDV, OH9MM, OH9RJ and OH9VC. QSL is via OH9UV .

As we all know the real Santa Claus comes from Finland!

— Juha Valimaki OH9MM

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
 c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
 60 Carl Avenue B2
 Eighty Four, PA 15330-9235

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.
 Entry Deadline: February 7th, 2003
Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2004 on February 29th!

QSL Manager Woes

Courtesy of A Very Well Known QSL Manager

Most QSL Managers are unpaid volunteers. They do a painstaking, thankless job of matching up your request for a QSL card from a rare DX Station, or an extremely active contest or DXpedition station to that station's log, and get you the card in a timely manner. And they do so on their own time, sometimes at their own expense, out of friendship to the DX, or simply out of the best interests of the hobby.

They rarely get the thanks they deserve. But sometimes...

Following a recent contest operation, a QSL Manager (who is being kept anonymous by the editor) received a request for a station he manages, but with no SASE. He sent the following email to that station (names & calls changed to prevent the editor being sued!); the exchange speaks for itself:

Dear Ira

Your QSL card from **QQ0Q** awaits your SASE!

73 John Doe, QSL Manager

Dear John, as you can see the QSL card I sent took time, effort and expense to produce... a one of a kind. You are suggesting that I should incur the cost of mailing an envelope with a stamp, within another envelope with a stamp so you can send me your QSL card??? Thanks but no thanks!

I will however make sure to let all know what your radio club contact expects in return.

73, Ira Putz ALØSER

Hey Ira

EXCUSE me.....I'm SORRY.....I will certainly PAY for you to get a card from **QQ0Q** after all one out of 9000 that refuses to go along with the system ain't bad!

Yes, please do tell your friends and fellow DXers that John Doe refuses to pay the freight and see how much sympathy you get!

I asked for an SASE not a loan!

73, John Doe, QSL Manager

Be advise that your email(s) are not wanted at this address. Any further emails from you will be reported to the FCC. If you are unaware of the law covering unwanted email I suggest you look it up. I will not (e-mail) to you again...keep this email as proof of my request.

Ira Putz ALØSER

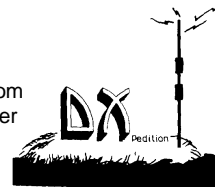
WASH Apparel Updates!

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



A team of eight French military operators are now active from Europa Island (AF-009, WW Loc. LG07EQ) until December 15th as **TO4E**. They were active during the CQ WW CW contest as **TO4WW**. The operators arrived a little ahead of schedule, but have run into difficulties including having to QRT at times at the request of the French military on the island, for power reasons, and allegedly to protect the turtles laying their eggs! Plans are that on the return trip, they will also stop on Reunion Island. On-line logs are not available. QSL both calls via F5OGL — F5OGL

KJ4UY will be QRV as **V47UY** starting on December 2nd through 16th. He plans to be active in the ARRL 160 meter contest, and (w/ V44NK) the ARRL 10 meter contest. Other operating times may be limited as this is both a vacation & Dxpedition. QSL via KJ4UY — KJ4UY

A tornado struck the **LT1F** contest station on November 11th 2003, causing three complete tower failures and major antenna damage. They will rebuild. Photos are available at http://public.fotki.com/crvsnc/radio/lt1f_tower_failures/ — KE9R

The **American Samoa ARA** was formed on November 4th in the hopes of becoming the latest IARU member society — K1ER, AH7C

The Russian Robinson Club is planning a "unique mountain radio-expedition" to Tanzania. The team plans to climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and erect the Russian Robinson Club flag. The expedition is planned to take place between December 2nd — 17th. Look for them to be active from the United Arab Emirates as **A61AR** during the evening of December 2nd & 3rd and December 16th & 17th. From Tanzania they will use the calls **5H3GW**, **5H3AA** & **5H3RK**. QSL via operator's instructions — UA9OBA, VA3RJ

A NJ group including K2KJL, K2RVH, W5GJ, WA2VUN, W2AZK & KF2HC will be QRV with 2 stations from French St. Martin, 160 – 6 M CW, SSB, PSK31 & possibly satellite, December 3rd – 10th. Look for **FS/W2JJ** during the ARRL 160 Meter contest, otherwise **FS/home call**. — NJDXA

K2WE, will be QRV from Barbados (NA-021) as **8P9AP** December 2nd — 8th, 80 through 10 meter CW & SSB. QSL via K2WE — K2WE, VA3RJ

N5XZ has received his license for **TT8XZ**. TT8CB is trying to get him a radio set up, and he hopes to be QRV from Chad soon — N5XZ via K5LBU

N4AA regrets to inform many that some or all of the logs for **9N1AA** are "lost," so he is unable to confirm many QSL requests — N4AA, CT1EEB

Cards from **CY9A** (except RTTY) w/sufficient return postage starting going in the mail before Thanksgiving. Bureau cards will not be mailed until later — N5VL

PA3CNX is QRV as **PJ4/PA3CNX** now through December 15th — PA3CNX

"Bureau cards for **OJØLA** can be requested via e-mail. Send an e-mail to la9vda2003@yahoo.no with your qso information. Please do not send cards via the bureau if you request via e-mail" — LA9VDA

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

Although **4U1UN** has returned to the air, check the bulletins for announced operating schedules; all operations will be pre-announced. Pirates have also begun operating under the call. November 22nd was Slim in action — KT1J

QSL Routes

3DA via VA7DX —	(72) via KC4DWI —
4W3DX via TF3MM —	LU6Z — W9OL
5N6EAM — W4YCH	OH9SCL via OH9UV OH9MM
5Z4PV via PA3CBH JQ2GYU	via KQ3F —
via N1NK —	PJ2/NH7C — KQ3F
8Q7L via VK6LC —	T88EA via JH1EAQ WØMM
9M2TO ØDMV W9OL	TO2FG via F6HMJ W4YCH
via SM5BFJ —	via F5OGL —
A45WD — W9OL	TU2XZ — W4YCH
A71EM via LZ1YE VA5DX	TX8G via LA8G WØMM
via PA9JJ N7RT	TZ6RD — W9IXX, W3QY
via K1BV —	V47UY via KJ4UY KJ4UY
H44LB — W	via JA1CQT JF1LZQ
HG1S — W9OL	via GØDEZ —
J5UDX via IV3NVN N1NK	ZM8CW — W9IXX

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**
Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX



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.**

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For Sale — Alinco DJ-G5TH dual band HT. Comes with 9.6v/650mah nicad battery, charger, manual, **MR. NICAD** 9.6v/750mah NiMH battery and case. \$150.00 Ted, WN3BOJ 412-784-8924 tpinsker@netzero.com

Wanted — If anyone has any WORKING spare computers, or inkjet/laser printers and would care to donate them to a worthy cause, please let me know. These computers would be going to a private orphanage (with 20 school-aged children to care for.) A lot of these kids have computer classes in school but no computer at home to do their homework and term papers. Ideally looking for 3-5 complete systems. I would be willing to pick up any equipment you may have to donate Paul NØVLR pjlusardi@switch.com or (724) 229-3973



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 seven years!

FCC's Abernathy Spins Comments

Courtesy of Dave Schrader W1MCE

Editor's Note: The following is courtesy of an e-mail sent to Dave Schrader W1MCE on November 6th in reply to his protest to FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy's comments in a September speech apparently in support of BPL

Dear Mr. Schrader,
Thank you for your interest in broadband over powerline issues.

We regret that the Commissioner's remarks may have been interpreted as suggesting an absence of concern over harmful interference. The Commissioner's primary point was that, from a policy perspective, she is keenly interested in seeing multiple broadband platforms develop, to promote the goals of facilities-based competition and broadband deployment. She did not intend to suggest that broadband over powerline necessarily will emerge as a viable platform, or that it does not present interference issues.

In fact, she went out of her way to note that the Commission must ensure that BPL and all new technologies avoid causing harmful interference to licensed RF users. That is a bedrock position for Commissioner Abernathy, and we regret if it was not made sufficiently clear.

Sincerely,
Matthew A. Brill, Senior Legal Adviser to Commissioner Abernathy

FCC News

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

NEWINGTON, CT, November 14th, 2003 — The FCC is considering the explanation of a Maryland ham in the wake of complaints that he disrupted an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) net in September during Hurricane Isabel. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth had written Charles E. Cox Sr, WA3AE, on October 16th, enclosing complaints alleging deliberate interference to emergency communications that W3AAC at the Anne Arundel County emergency operations center was conducting on the 146.805 MHz repeater in Millersville, Maryland.



"The allegations, if true, raise serious questions about your qualifications to be a Commission licensee and warrant enforcement action," Hollingsworth told Cox. The US Postal Service returned the FCC's certified letter to Cox as undeliverable. Commission personnel eventually tracked down Cox to a residence in Laurel, Maryland.

In a handwritten note, Cox told the FCC that he was on the air — although he claims it was on the 147.105 MHz repeater in Davidsonville — but asserted that he was only trying to help & didn't believe he was interfering with the emergency net.

"There is a major misunderstanding," Cox wrote the FCC. "I did not cause deliberate interference, me being an Extra class operator and I felt it was my duty to help during the hurricane." Cox said the situation was being blown out of proportion and that he had done nothing wrong intentionally. Cox also said he would change his mailing address with the FCC.

Several complainants — two off-duty FCC employees among them — tell a different story. They said a station identifying as WA3AE came on the net and uttered "irrelevant comments many times," according to one net control station, who also said that the operator was rude, "seemed intoxicated" and used inappropriate language. Cox told the FCC he has a speech impediment that makes him sound inebriated. The NCS contended that Cox ignored numerous requests to keep the frequency open for emergency communications, but Cox disputes that.

Two FCC agents who happened to be monitoring the net also heard the station break into emergency communications between the EOC and hams deployed at shelters around Anne Arundel County. The FCC agents attempted without success to reach Cox at the telephone number in the Commission's database. "The ham identifying as WA3AE sounded inebriated," one of the FCC agents noted.

Hollingsworth said the FCC has Cox's response to the complaints under review.

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.

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 ↓)

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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____ License Class: _____

City, State: _____ Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

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

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

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company"

Embroidered Shirts and Hats

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

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

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

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

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

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

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

Inside This Issue:

- 2004 Election Results!
- Last Call for the **WASH** Christmas / Holiday Party — Don't Miss It!
- Ohio Village's Antenna Ban Overturned (but read the story for how it was done!)
- AMSAT-OSCAR 14 Goes Dark!
- Rules, 2004 **WASH** 2 Meter Contest!
- **WASHFest 2004** Is Coming **Feb. 29th**!

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



From The Archives: WASH Christmas/ Holiday Party 2000

Just a short reminder that we always have good food and a great time together this time of the year, so if you haven't already done so, please make your reservation for the 2003 **WASH** Christmas/Holiday Party, to be held at **Al's Café** on McMurray Road.

And on behalf of everyone involved in writing, editing, and distributing the **WASHRag**, have a safe and joyous holiday season!

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2003 Ron Notarius WN3VAW

The **WASHRag**

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Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2222



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B
www.washarc.org

What will you find wrapped up and waiting for you this year?
(A new rig, or another tie?)