



## BPL: Already Obsolete?

Is the entire Broadband Over PowerLine brou-ha-hah going to end up being a big deal over... nothing? It may turn out to be that way, as technology appears to be passing over BPL as obsolete before it is ever implemented.

Just pick up the June 7<sup>th</sup> issue of *Newsweek*. The cover story is on "The Next Frontiers" and includes a discussion of the "10 Hot Wireless Cities." That's right — wireless, as in Wi-Fi, or for those who prefer the technical terms, 802.11b and 802.11g systems.

The promise of BPL is that (if it actually works) the end user can just plug their computer into a wall outlet for broadband access, rather than look for a phone plug. But the next obvious step is that instead of a BPL router located on the utility pole, it will be a Wi-Fi router... and that means that you don't have to plug the computer in anywhere, just turn it on and let it's Wi-Fi antenna make the connection!

And more and more areas are being hooked up for Wi-Fi, either by utilities, or just by people hooking up their own wireless routers and leaving them open for the public (which is a whole 'nother story for another time).

So if this is the case... why the big push for BPL?

Money. Pure and simple.

The people who have invested in BPL want to make their money back, even if they now know they've backed a bad investment. So they're hoping to get BPL implemented, the systems sold, and then can walk away and leave others to take the loss when the system is finally mothballed... not them.

Oh wait, isn't BPL supposed to be more cost effective than Wi-Fi for rural areas? Isn't that one of the original premises of BPL? Problem is, none of the testing is actually taking place in those remote areas, and it's starting to come out that the BPL providers aren't actually interested in providing Broadband to those areas because they can't make any money at it! It's all a con game to get the systems in place, whatever it takes.

So why is the FCC pushing BPL? Why is President Bush behind it? Have they too been sold a bill of goods? Or is this a political pay off in an election year? (And the real cynic will wonder if there's any other kind of pay off, but without proof, that's just speculation...) Still, never forget that they're politicians, not technicians, so the technical problems and difficulties can be explained away (to them) on paper. After all, they don't have to actually make the systems work, just believe that they can (and will) work.

The bottom line remains that BPL systems as proposed will cause massive RFI problems to current spectrum users, who will be left to deal with the mess when the utilities involved wash their hands of it.

Getting more access to Broadband is a noble and worthy goal. But BPL is already obsolete — and I think it's backers know it. Greater Wi-Fi access is state of the art and makes better sense, and that is what the FCC should be supporting.

— Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor

## Field Day 2004

Don't forget that ARRL Field Day is coming in a few short weeks!

Field Day 2004 will be the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in June, June 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. The **WASH** Field Day site will again be located at the **Library Sportsmen's Association** (thanks again to Hank KB3FNM *et al.* for arranging this!), south of Library, PA (just past *Trax Farm* across from *Mineral Beach*) on Route 88. Talk-In on 146.955 and 443.650 MHz. Operations commence just after breakfast and continue through clean-up on Sunday afternoon; help needed everywhere from setting up antennas and stations to operating, logging, cooking, and eventually tear-down and clean-up. Contact Bill W3WH at the club picnic at Breezeshooter's this Sunday, on the air, via email or at the next club meeting, and let him know about when you can be there and what you can help out with.

Field Day Plans will be finalized at the June club meeting, so please be there if you possibly can!

Remember, Field Day is open to all club members, and guests including the general public to come and see what Amateur Radio is all about, so invite a prospective new ham or new club member to come and visit the **WASH** Field Day setup today!



### Inside this issue:

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
U.S. versus Them	5
A Visit From Murphy	6
Nuturing New Hams	7
DX News Briefs	8
Hamfest Announcements	10

## Next Meeting: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Plans for the 2004 N3SH Field Day operation will be discussed. (Additional information was not available at deadline)

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

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

**June NCS  
Stations:**

- 06/06 Bell Family
  - 06/13 Michael KB3HFP
  - 06/20 Bill W3WH
  - 06/27 Kevin N3HKQ
- 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:**

- Pgh. Vintage Grand Prix July 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>
- North Hills ARC Hamfest **New Date** August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Skyview RS Hamfest August 29<sup>th</sup>
- CA OSO Party October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Pennsylvania OSO Party October 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

<h1>June 2004</h1>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Butler Co ARA Mtng Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	<b>2</b> Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>3</b> WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>4</b> Elco ARS Meeting	<b>5</b> RA Erie VE Test Beaver Valley ARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>6</b> Ellwood City ARA Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>7</b> Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>8</b> Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft.Venango M&K Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng 2 Rivers ARC VE Test WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net	<b>9</b> North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>10</b> <b>WASH Meeting</b> Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>11</b>	<b>12 June VHF Contest MS 150 Bike Tour</b> 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>13 June VHF Contest</b> QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>14 Flag Day</b> Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Steel City ARC VE Test Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>15</b> Steel City ARC Meeting S H B P & M Meeting TriCounty CW ARC Meeting Junata Valley ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Junata Valley ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net	<b>16</b> Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>17</b> Butler Co ARES Mtng. Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Mtng Uniontown ARC Net	<b>18</b> 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC	<b>19 Kid's Day</b> Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>20 Father's Day</b> Elk Co ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>21</b> Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>22</b> Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	<b>23</b> North Hills ARC Activity Nite Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>24</b> WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>25</b>	<b>26 Field Day</b> North Hills ARC Elmer Net  <b>WASH Breakfast</b>
<b>27 Field Day</b> QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>28</b> Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>29</b> WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	<b>30</b> Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>7/1</b> WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>7/2</b> Elco ARS Meeting	<b>7/3</b> 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 Oelschlager N3ZNI  
VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL  
Webmaster Bob Sanford AA3FI  
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI  
WASH FM Net Manager Kevin Smith N3HKQ  
WASHFest 2004 Committee Steve Lane W3SRL, Chairman  
Carol Danko KB3GMN  
Bill Hill W3WH  
Kevin Smith N3HKQ  
Activities & Operating Events Larry Comden K3VX  
Ted Huf W4ZE  
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) 443.650 MHz (+) PL 131.8  
Canonsburg N3BV/R 28.276 MHz  
St. Johns, VI NP2SH/B

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.

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://www.washarc.org) or [www.djernes.org/washrag](http://www.djernes.org/washrag)

## WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

### Next WASH VE Test July 15<sup>th</sup>!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 Jacques Gosselin N3ZEL:

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

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$12.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004  
Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005  
Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005

Paul NØVLR wants to remind everyone to check out the Gigaparts web site at [www.gigaparts.com/sweepstakes/index.php](http://www.gigaparts.com/sweepstakes/index.php)

You can enter, for free, every day for a chance on a new radio (such as a Kenwood TS-480S or similar radio).

Answer a "bonus" question for an extra entry per day too!

"It's like buying a hamfest raffle ticket each day!"

## D-Day Museum Special Event

The Jefferson Amateur Radio Club will mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day — the Allied invasion of Normandy — with special event Station W5D Saturday and Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

W5D will operate from the main floor of the National D-Day Museum <http://www.ddaymuseum.org> in New Orleans. The station will be on the air from 1400 to 2300 UTC each day. "We will be operating from the Museum as well as providing a display of World War II vintage radio gear, a tape of the first 16 minutes of a radio broadcast describing the invasion as it happened, and eyeball ragchews," said Jefferson ARC Vice President Keith Barnes, W5KB.

The group is seeking a few additional pieces of period radio gear for display purposes only. A few operators lots remain. Contact Keith Barnes, [w5kb@cox.net](mailto:w5kb@cox.net) via e-mail for details.

A certificate will be available for those contacting W5D. Include \$2.50 for postage and handling (or include an SASE for a QSL card). Certificate/QSL requests go to the Jefferson Amateur Radio Club, W5GAD, PO Box 73665, Metairie, LA LA 70033.

### Coming to the Picnic?

If you're going to be at the Breezeshooters Hamfest on Sunday, bring a camera along. If we get enough photos, we'll do a "special edition" newsletter just like we did last year — leaving the July issue for Field Day photos!

May 29<sup>th</sup> brought together a good sized turnout of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at the **Starting Line Café** on Route 19 north of Race Track Road, down by The Meadows. One of the largest turnouts to date came together, including members of WASH, WACOM, the North Hills ARC, and others, including Bill N3BPP, Larry K3VX, Bill W3WH, Norm N3KLR, Joe WE3K, Dave W3IDH, Jack W9UK, Jim WB4GCS, Pat KC4WTT, Bill N3XFE & Noreen, Dave K3LGM & Jane & Rebecca, Damian KB3JHM, David KB3JHL, Kevin N3HKQ & Peg, Hank KB3FNM & Mary Lou, Jacque N3ZEL, and Ed N3ZNI. Reports are that all had a good time! The next Club Breakfast will return to the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, on June 26<sup>th</sup> and then head back down to **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, on July 31<sup>st</sup>. See you there!

**Meeting Minutes:** As of deadline, the April club meeting minutes have been received, but not the May minutes. Once again, we hope to have those next month!

**The Sixth Annual WASH Picnic** at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest will take place as has become our tradition, just a few days away as this goes to print. The usual announcement is on Page 10. Hope to see you all there! The club reflector will have the up-to-date info of who is bringing what for the pot-luck affair, so check your email for the latest scoop. And don't forget: this is a "private" picnic for club members, their families, and invited guests. We have to emphasize this as every year, there's always someone who smells the burgers and 'dogs cooking and just HAS to buy one — and we can't do that, we're not allowed to compete with the commercial vendors. We can be pretty flexible on invitations (yes, we've had people invited on the spot, and that's OK, as long as a club member invites them), so long as we're not selling.

**ARRIS Update:** Everything appears more-or-less on track for the upcoming contact with Astronaut Mike Fincke aboard the International Space Station. Jim WB4GCS and Kevin N3HKQ will be providing the equipment and antennas for the actual contact, with a lot of other club members offering backup equipment. NASA has indicated that they'd like to schedule the QSO for sometime in August; once the application gets processed, we should have the date. Hopefully we should have more details and other information by next month's newsletter!

**Picnic: Play Ball?** Speaking of August, plans have begun for our annual August picnic. One suggestion has been, for a change of pace, to hold the picnic in conjunction with a Washington Wild Things Frontier League baseball game! What do you think? Let Bill W3WH know!

**Goodbye:** We learned at Hamvention that Dave K3LGM (ex KB3GOT) will be leaving the area soon to take a new job in Texas. We'll miss you! But what is N3ZNI going to do for a mobile partner for the Pa QSO Party now?

**Speaking of Hamvention**, yes, a good time was again had by all who went. Weather was traditional — traditional April that is, with drizzle on Friday and rain on Saturday. The crowd was definitely and noticeably down again this year, with many booths inside vacant (and why was the usual main forum area roped off and unavailable?). The Flea Market had a large number of empty spaces, although in fairness, the Saturday weather was no doubt a large factor in that. Yaesu brought a mock-up of their new radio — and encased it in Plexiglas so no one could touch it, only look, which caused N3KFD to dub it the "Pheasant Under Glass."

One unfortunate note was that due to a last-minute schedule change by USAir, Greg KQ3DX (who's done all the work the last few years getting us our room reservations at the University of Dayton, which appears to be more and more attractive each year) was unable to attend. We did arrange to have a group photo taken on Saturday and printed on a T-Shirt to let Greg know we were thinking of him... and while we were posing, someone from the Hamvention committee took a few snapshots too! One wonders... in any case, if we can ever get our hands on a copy of the photo, you'll see it here!

**Ahoy Matey:** AI KA3UPY/4 came up from Florida to join us for Hamvention. AI noted that work on the boat is still progressing, and he hopes to be seaworthy in the near future. Now if we can ever get permission to land on Desecheo or Navassa, we know who we can get for our transportation! (Ah, right AI? Right?)

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2004 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!



# Minutes, April 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

Bill, W3WH, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours. There were 22 members and guests in attendance.

A **moment of silence** was observed for recent silent keys and other deserving persons.

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the March meeting as published in the March newsletter. The motion was made by Hank, KB3FNM, seconded by Dave, N3IDH. The motion was voted on and passed.

## Committee reports:

**Treasurer (N3RDV):** read and accepted

**Secretary (KB3FZU):** Looking for topics or speakers for upcoming meetings.

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** The next VE session will be next Thursday April 15th.

**Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL):** The repeaters are doing OK. Steve, W3SRL, reports that he and Pete are still trying to coordinate a tune up.

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** No report.

**Ways & Means (KB3GMN):** No Report.

**Public Service (N3RDV):** Beaver Valley power plant drill is coming up next month see Dave, N3IDH for more information. Also operators will be needed for the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix race in July.

**Contests (K3VX):** The first running of the Mid Atlantic QSO party will be on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. It will run around the clock. All operating is to be done at fewer than 150 watts.

**Field Day – Mingo Creek Park** is booked so we cannot go there this year for Field Day. We are trying to make arrangements to go there next year. We have a tentative date booked at the Library Sportsmen's Association. Rick, KB3IAC, motioned to confirm the Library Sportsmen's Association as our Field Day location, Larry, K3VX, seconded. The motion was voted on and passed.

**Newsletter (WN3VAW):** The March newsletter was available just before the hamfest. A second March newsletter devoted to hamfest pictures is in the works and it should be out soon.

**President's Report (W3WH):** We got a plaque for the PA QSO Party. NP2SH was declared as the winner in the DX division. Could everyone bring a radio to the next meeting for 'show and tell'? Bill would like to set up a 'SWAT' team to help people set up a station or put up an antenna. See Bill, W3WH, to participate.

**Old Business:** Bob, W3RJM, the open house at the Steel City ARC will be April 17<sup>th</sup> from 3pm until whenever. All are welcome to attend; additional info is available on the SCARC website. This will be a monthly event. Use the repeater at 147.03 with a 123 pl for directions. The clubhouse is on McMichael Road in Collier Twp.

**New Business:** Think about this for next month – is anyone interested in doing a fox hunt? Bill, W3WH.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Dick, N3QMV, and seconded by Dan, KB3HVN seconded. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 19:30. Don, N3HOW, gave a presentation on United States Power Squadrons.

**Editor's Note:** *May meeting minutes were not available as of deadline.*

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

[www.djernes.org/washrag](http://www.djernes.org/washrag)

Thanks **NØPEU** for providing the new site!

**"We can't regulate stupid"**

— Bill Cross W3TN, quoted by Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH  
FCC Forum, Dayton 2002

# WASH Spotlight



"Twice a day: Shake well, and then eat a sensible meal..." nah, everything in sight. Kevin N3KFD at ayton Hamvention 2004 (Kevin? Dieting? Who'd've thought?)

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Frank Bobro KB3FZU.

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@njdx.org](mailto:wn3vaw@njdx.org)

## Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> & July 31<sup>st</sup>

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!

We alternate our breakfast locations every month to make it easier for club members to get to at least one of them:

Join us in June at the **Your Way Café**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads, Whitehall, and in July at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington. Start time is about 8 AM until whenever. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes. All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not! See you there!

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

<b>AA3FI</b>	<b>KB3GMO</b>	<b>KE8RN</b>	<b>N3SRC</b>	<b>W3JAF</b>	Barbara Misic
<b>AA3JS</b>	<b>KB3GMP</b>	<b>KQ3DX</b>	<b>N3TBK</b>	<b>W3RJM</b>	David
<b>AB3AB</b>	<b>KB3GMU</b>	<b>NØPEU</b>	<b>N3UE</b>	<b>W3RWS</b>	Delmonico
<b>K3BZW</b>	<b>KB3GZG</b>	<b>NØVLR</b>	<b>N3UIW</b>	<b>W3SRL</b>	
<b>K3JDS</b>	<b>KB3GUZ</b>	<b>NØWVP</b>	<b>N3VEH</b>	<b>W3VE</b>	<b>Silent Keys</b>
<b>K3LGM</b>	<b>KB3HFP</b>	<b>N2QIV</b>	<b>N3WPT</b>	<b>W3VFA</b>	<b>K3EED</b>
<b>K3OL</b>	<b>KB3HVN</b>	<b>N3AWF</b>	<b>N3XFE</b>	<b>W3WH</b>	<b>KB3ENX</b>
<b>K3PCF</b>	<b>KB3IAC</b>	<b>N3BSQ</b>	<b>N3XI</b>	<b>W4ZE</b>	<b>KB3FQT</b>
<b>K3VX</b>	<b>KB3ICC</b>	<b>N3CZZ</b>	<b>N3YPB</b>	<b>W8LEV</b>	<b>N3KEH</b>
<b>K3WR</b>	<b>KB3IJX</b>	<b>N3FZ</b>	<b>N3YQY</b>	<b>WA3JPP</b>	<b>N3OBD</b>
<b>K9LZ</b>	<b>KB3IRQ</b>	<b>N3HKQ</b>	<b>N3ZCG</b>	<b>WB3BPH</b>	<b>N3SKR</b>
<b>KA3PPH</b>	<b>KB3IVW</b>	<b>N3IDH</b>	<b>N3ZEG</b>	<b>WB4GCS</b>	<b>W3ZLK</b>
<b>KA3TFB</b>	<b>KB3IVB</b>	<b>N3INT</b>	<b>N3ZEH</b>	<b>WB3GTL</b>	
<b>KA3UPY</b>	<b>KB3QX</b>	<b>N3KFD</b>	<b>N3ZEL</b>	<b>WN3BOJ</b>	<b>Color Codes:</b>
<b>KA3WZO</b>	<b>KC2JJB</b>	<b>N3PN</b>	<b>N3ZNI</b>	<b>WN3VAW</b>	<b>2004 Member</b>
<b>KA3YTS</b>	<b>KC4WTT</b>	<b>N3QMV</b>	<b>N4MIS</b>	<b>WO3Z</b>	<b>2003 Member</b>
<b>KB3ANH</b>	<b>KC6VLV</b>	<b>N3RDV</b>	<b>NP2JF</b>		<b>2002 Member</b>
<b>KB3CPI</b>	<b>KD3JV</b>	<b>N3RHT</b>	<b>N8DPW</b>		<b>2001 Member</b>
<b>KB3DCO</b>	<b>KE3XB</b>	<b>N3RNX</b>	<b>W3GEL</b>		<b>(2000 and earlier members no longer displayed)</b>
<b>KB3EPI</b>	<b>KE7FD</b>	<b>N3SBF</b>	<b>W3HND</b>		
<b>KB3ERQ</b>					
<b>KB3FNM</b>					
<b>KB3FZU</b>					
<b>KB3GMN</b>					

Through May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

## NTIA Hints at BPL Phase 2 Findings

ARRL Letter courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, May 26, 2004 — National Telecommunications and Information Administration Acting Administrator Michael Gallagher has hinted at some of the findings in his agency's pending Phase 2 broadband over power line (BPL) study. In remarks May 17 at the United Telecom Council's "Telecom 2004" in Nashville, Tennessee, Gallagher said the complete NTIA Phase 2 BPL study is "targeted for release later this year." While the Phase 2 study will provide "additional guidance" on contending with BPL interference issues, the NTIA has advised against putting the present FCC rule making proceeding on hold until its release.

"Key Phase 2 technical analyses have been completed," Gallagher told the UTC gathering, "and the findings are appended to NTIA's comments on proposed rules." The NTIA has yet to file those comments, although it has posted its Phase 1 BPL study (<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fccfilings/2004/bpl/index.htm>) on the proceeding. The comment deadline on the FCC's BPL (*NPRM*) in ET Docket 04-37 was May 3, but the period for reply comments ends June 22 (the FCC has granted a 3 week extension on reply comments).

Responsible for developing telecommunications policy for a White House that's promoting BPL, as well as for administering federal government radio spectrum that could be affected by the technology, the NTIA finds itself with a stake on both sides of the BPL controversy.

Gallagher's Telecom 2004 presentation acknowledged that the principal concern surrounding the technology is that "BPL systems might interfere with federal government radio communications or other state and private radio operators." The NTIA's Phase 1 study showed that interference risks already are high under existing Part 15 rules, and it advises retaining--not relaxing--existing Part 15 power limits. Among the Phase 1 study's recommendations for reducing interference are frequency shifting and notching as well as "refined compliance measurement procedures," which Gallagher characterized as solutions "to satisfy all parties." BPL proponents have said they can comply with Part 15 emission limits, but NTIA says they're basing that assertion on the use of existing measurement procedures.

The agency has said its Phase 2 study will, among other things, assess interference risks due to aggregation (ie, total emissions from multiple BPL systems) and ionospheric propagation of interfering signals from BPL systems. Gallagher said the Phase 2 study has determined that BPL aggregation and ionospheric propagation "is not a potential near-term problem."

The NTIA predicts that millions of BPL devices can be deployed under the rules the FCC is expected to adopt--probably later this year--before ionospheric propagation and aggregate BPL emissions become an interference issue.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says he's curious to hear the NTIA rationalize its "near-term" assertion. "Does this mean it's okay to go ahead with a bad idea if the problems it causes are sufficiently far in the future?" he asked.

The Phase 2 study also will evaluate the effectiveness of proposed Part 15 measurement techniques and recommend a "height-correction factor" of 5 dB to BPL measurements made at a height of 1 meter, Gallagher said. It also will advise requiring a peak field strength measurement search "all along the power line" at a distance of 10 meters and at a height of 1 meter.

The NTIA acknowledges that peak field strength is as much as 20 dB higher--a factor of 100--than the peak measured at a height of 1 meter under current Part 15 rules. Because the peak does not occur consistently at a particular distance from a BPL device along the power line, the NTIA says, technicians must seek a peak field strength by tracking the entire power line. According to the NTIA, this will cover 80 percent of peaks at any height.

The agency has determined that a moderate-to-high probability of interference exists to a fixed station from BPL power lines at a distance of 450 meters--approximately 1480 feet--and to a mobile station at a distance of 55 meters--approximately 180 feet.

To "fulfill special protection requirements," Gallagher said, the NTIA will suggest "minimal" coordination areas --where a specified authority would coordinate all planned BPL deployment--plus excluded bands and exclusion zones. The NTIA recommends "voluntary coordination" with respect to other radio operations plus "mandatory Access BPL power control, frequency agility and shut-off capabilities" to reduce interference risks and to expedite interference mitigation.

The NTIA further proposes that BPL rules provide for "prompt response to complaints of suspected interference" and recasting the FCC's Part 15

(NTIA Continued on page 6)

## U.S. versus Them

Chuck Reville K3FT courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

You'll NOTE (I'm sure!) the PERIODS between the letters 'U' and 'S' in the title. It is IMPORTANT that you recognize that U.S. is not 'US' but 'U. S.' as in United States. If you don't, you'll miss the point.

I ONLY make a pointed, direct, overt reference to it because LOTS of people will 'see' the title, but won't 'see' the periods and will go off on a flame about the 'US' versus 'THEM'. Ok...now that EVERYONE knows its U.S. not US...

When BPL comes to the masses, we'll see interference to a WIDE ranging group of services -- Ham radio, Aviation, Commercial (business), Railroad, HFBC, and others who monitor, operate, and inhabit the HF bands. ARRL and other groups have PROVEN this to be a factual reality.

We'll also see interference FROM a wide ranging group of services- ham radio, CB, mobile stations, fixed stations, broadcast, etc. to BPL. This has been proven to be factually true by AMRAD demonstrations. THESE TWO POINTS ARE INARGUABLY PROVEN.

**\*\*BPL SHALL HAPPEN AND IT SHALL BE LAUNCHED\*\***

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT?!

Since it is NOT going to be stopped PRIOR to being launched, then it needs to be dealt with AFTER it is launched.

IF YOU ARE INTERFERED WITH -- regardless of your service -- YOU are going to have exert some (sadly excessive) effort to build the case.

- 1] DOCUMENT! DOCUMENT! DOCUMENT! Logs, recordings, etc. Make it factual, non-emotional. Try to stay within your area of expertise. In other words DON'T try to go outside your own level of competence or understanding. KEEP IS SIMPLE!
- 2] Send them TO the FCC, The ARRL, AND the BPL provider. You may have to use certified mail to get PROOF of delivery.
- 3] COMPLAIN, via phone, to the FCC and the BPL provider. Keep NOTES about when (date/day/time) you called; The number/department/Company/office/agency you called; The name/ID #/dept no of the person you called; and a summary of the conversation along with any results or (more likely in the case of BPL provider) any BRUSH OFFS.
- 4] If you operate HF/VHF, KEEP A LOG!!! IF you have to defend yourself, a LOG showing a HISTORY of your operations will be a MUCH better defense than if you have a sheet of paper you JUST started the day before (or the day of) the notices. In your log, keep a short summary of any BPL-related items and if you have files, where the files are located.
- 5] COMMUNICATE! Keep other folks informed -- esp. hams in your area. If you have buddies in the area in other services- Aviation, Commercial, Broadcast, 2-way, whatever, TALK TO THEM! Alert them as to the issue and inform them - if they don't already know. Keep in touch. Collect info.
- 6] BE PATIENT! NEVER GIVE UP!
- 7] OPERATE HF! (if you have the hardware/privileges.) Be active. Remember the AMRAD study showed that a 100W HF transmitter was shown to be a hindrance to BPL operation. OPERATE legally and within the rules and authorization of your license! DO NOT GO OUT OF YOUR WAY to harass BPL or BPL folks.
- 8] KEEP YOUR COOL! (REPEAT!) KEEP YOUR COOL! If you get confronted by a neighbor, BPL provider, etc, DO NOT GET 'SELF-RIGHTEOUS, HAUGHTY, OR BELLIGERANT! BE COOL! KEEP YOUR COOL!!! READ part 15 and KNOW what it says! Just explain to them WHAT BPL is and what the problems are. IF you have some information that EXPLAINS BPL and the KNOWN PROBLEMS that BPL will receive FROM \*\*ALL OTHER SERVICES THAT USE THE HF SPECTRUM\*\* give them something that the LAYMAN can understand!
- 9] STRESS THAT \*\*ANY\*\* transmitter in the area that BPL operates on can (and will) interfere with BPL. STRESS it can be the police/fire department transmitter (they operate LOW BAND 30MHZ), the Commercial BUSINESS who may be on low band, AM Broadcast stations (due to high power), and other stations beside ham radio. THE GOAL here is to deflect their focus from 'JUST HAM RADIO'. If THEY see that it's MORE than just "YOU -- the ham" you stand a MUCH better chance of escaping their pointed (but misguided) wrath.

(U.S. versus Them Continued on page 6)



## Product Review

Steve Lane W3SRL

### The Radio Shack 22-820 22-Range Fold-Up Auto-Ranging Pocket Multimeter

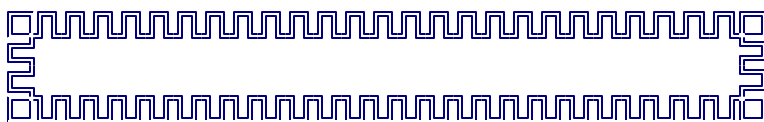
Every so often you come across a piece of equipment that just seems to be too good to be true. Well, this little instrument isn't one of them. The Radio Shack 22-820 Multimeter is everything that the average ham/tinkerer/hobbyist/homeowner needs and more.

On the surface, this little multimeter looks like a toy. But in actual use, it performs like a champ, and is far more convenient to carry around than any of my other half-dozen or so meters. The reason is simple; It is rugged and accurate and when closed it is smaller than a cassette tape case. When closed, it houses the permanently-attached leads inside the clamshell-type lid. Operation is simple and efficient with only a simple slide-selector and a pushbutton to switch to the desired function. This awesome little tool is auto-ranging too, meaning that you never have to worry about blowing a fuse or destroying the meter if you select too low of a range. It also has a nifty little audio alert that sounds to indicate circuit continuity for those jobs where you only need to know if the circuit is complete or not. Perfect for those time you need to check a whole bunch of circuits at a clip, or when you need to test a circuit's continuity while you are contorting your body into some unnatural position to reach the contacts. When it is all said and done, you simply tuck the leads up into the lid, snap the case closed and drop this meter into your shirt pocket. Oh, and it automatically powers itself off after a period of inactivity so you can't kill the batteries accidentally by leaving the meter turned on.

So what's the cost of this handy little meter? It's only \$29.95 at your friendly local Radio Shack store. These units frequently go on sale, however for considerably less. I bought mine years ago for about \$18 if memory serves me correctly. You can bet that I'll be looking for another one for in the camper when they go on sale again.

#### Product Specifications:

- AC and DC volts in five ranges up to 500v
- Resistance to 20M Ohms in six ranges
- AC and DC current to 200 mA in two ranges
- Continuity buzzer
- Diode checker
- Automatic power-off



(U.S. vs. Them Continued from page 5)

10] GIVE them the EMAIL address of the ARRL RFI department in Newington and 'suggest' that they contact them for more detailed information. It may not work, but hey, ARRL HAS solid and understandable by the layman info!

#### KEEP YOUR COOL! FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

Yes, it's a LOT of extra work, but we're up against a powerful foe and the foe has LOTS of politically powerful friends!

(NTIA Continued from page 5)

shutdown requirement as "a last resort."

"Our BPL study of more than 10 million signal samples shows that solutions exist to all identified BPL technical issues," Gallagher concluded.

That's true, Sumner said, "but only if you include shutting a BPL system off and keeping it off as a 'solution.'"

During a White House meeting May 20, ARRL officials asked the Bush administration to heed its own experts at the NTIA and back away from its support of BPL in favor of less troublesome broadband technologies. In its comments in the proceeding, the League also called on the FCC to put its BPL proceeding on hold to allow more thorough research of its interference potential to licensed radio services.

## A Visit From Murphy

Larry Comden K3VX

A new QSO party and we're among the "wanted". Let's do it. Bill W3WH and Larry K3VX have about 100 years in ham radio between them. We can still get excited about the prospect of operating from a rare county, in this case, Greene County, PA.

Preparations: rented State Park cottage, batteries and charger, 2 IC706s, tables, chairs, keyers, mikes, phones, coax and adapters, vertical and dipole antennas, antenna mast, radials, on and on. You get the picture – 2 full Subarus with stuff on the roof rack.

Bill reports a missing computer power cord – of course, a weird one. Located at the last minute in a weird place.

The cottage is locked when we arrive at 9:30AM. Turns out that check in is 3PM – the Mid Atlantic QSO Party begins at noon. Lots of stuff unloaded on to the front porch picnic table. Other campers tell us that the Ranger comes around frequently and he has the key. One of the first things is to set up the electric cooler chest.

#### Murphy says, "Nothing is as easy as it looks"

He must have been thinking of our center support for the dipole. The support is a 29 foot Shakespeare marine antenna – fiberglass covering the radiator. It comes in 2 sections. The bottom section is the SAME diameter as the tilt-over pipe on the beautiful and very heavy base. Solution: slip a section of Radio Shack TV mast into the tilt-over and up into the bottom of the mast. The top section is extremely flexible. It's so flexible that we can't control the raising of the center insulator without the pulley arrangement dipping down to the top of the bottom section. After trying several configurations we give up. Our concave inverted Vee is at 15 to 20 feet.

By the way where is the all-important Duct Tape? Not here.

By noon it's hot. We want cold drinks. The "cooler" isn't. Bill finds that it's set up for heating instead of cooling. Fortunately, the campground water supply is very cool.

The vertical is a full size 40M antenna. It's mounted on a trailer hitch with a tilt-over gadget. We position the car and assemble the antenna. The aluminum lies across the only road in the campground. The radials are laid out helter-skelter. And where's the 40 foot RG8X with connectors? Not here. Use another coax run. After fixing the dead battery in the analyzer, it says the resonant frequency is 8.9 MHz! Hey, didn't we use this on our DXpedition to St John? Back down twice to pull out 2 adjustable (forgotten) sections. Now at 29.5 feet the antenna SWR is nearly 1 to1 across the whole 40M band.

We each set up an IC706. Bill is using an Astron power supply and there is power on the porch. Larry, while talking to Bill, (i.e. not paying attention) hooks up his 706 to a large battery with the leads reversed. Big arc, fuses saved the rig from damage. Murphy, again.

Bill hooks up his 706 to an AH4 tuner. The tuner is connected to the dipole with open wire line. It tunes on 80M, 40M and 20M. We briefly get both stations on the air. Even with band pass filters the mutual interference is awful. Further, Bill can't find the ¼ inch jack to 1/8-inch stereo plug adapter to connect his paddle to the 706.

At some point the Molex plug, which connects the tuner to the rig, falls apart. Some leads have pulled out of the crimped terminals. We don't have an extraction tool (who does?). Larry urges the pins out with needle nose pliers. We crimp and solder this time and have a hard time reinserting the pins in the block. Once again the (Murphy) polarity bug bites and hard. Neither the AH4 nor Bill's 706 works. Once the polarity fiasco is repaired we try Larry's 706. The AH4 is definitely fried. And now we're down to one 706. But wait, Bill has brought another rig. A stereo adapter (see above) is required here, too.

#### Murphy says, "Every solution breeds new problems"

We can't use the dipole without a tuner. Bill has brought an old Johnson Matchbox. It needs 120VAC to throw a receive/transmit relay to transmit. Remember it was designed in the Dark Ages for a separate receiver and transmitter. Bill disassembles the Matchbox but is stopped by a setscrew in one of the knobs. Finally it's open and we jam a piece of plastic into the relay. Bill will assemble and disassemble the Matchbox several more times before the end of the expedition.

#### Murphy says, "Everything takes longer than you think"

(FCC News Continued on page 8)

## K3VX Tower Party



**"May 29<sup>th</sup>'s antenna lowering successfully completed! Jim WB4GCS up on tower, Larry K3VX on roof helping guide, Tippi WA3JPP both feet firmly planted on ground, taking pictures."**

**Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Tippi Comden WA3JPP**

"Television's perfect. You turn a few knobs, a few of those mechanical adjustments at which the higher apes are so proficient, and lean back and drain your mind of all thought. And there you are watching the bubbles in the primeval ooze. You don't have to concentrate. You don't have to react. You don't have to remember. You don't miss your brain because you don't need it. Your heart and liver and lungs continue to function normally. Apart from that, all is peace and quiet. You are in the man's nirvana. And if some poor nasty minded person comes along and says you look like a fly on a can of garbage, pay him no mind.

**He probably hasn't got the price of a television set."**

**— Raymond Thornton Chandler, writer (1888-1959)**

## Experienced Hams Must Nurture Newcomers

ARRL Letter courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

*Newington, CT, May 22<sup>nd</sup>* — It's up to today's Amateur Radio veterans to cultivate the younger generation, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, told the ARRL Forum at Dayton Hamvention 2004 May 15. Calling the statistic "shocking," Haynie cited ARRL survey data showing that more than one-fifth of new amateur licensees never get on the air. He suggested that too few experienced amateurs take new licensees under their wing to help them get started.

"One of the things that we need to do is open up our hearts and open up our minds a little bit about the new generation coming along," he said. The addition of another half -dozen ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP) pilot schools has raised the total to 81, Haynie pointed out. While its primary goal is using Amateur Radio to educate youngsters about wireless technology, the ETP has resulted in thousands of new hams — teenagers and younger.

"What makes these programs successful, of course, is the local hams, the local clubs getting behind the program and teaching these kids the kinds of things we all know," Haynie said, adding that nothing is too basic or simple. "I didn't know how to put on a PL-259 when I got my General," recalling that he'd more than once forgotten to slip the connector's shell over the end of the cable before soldering the plug.

Haynie suggested that today's older hams also need to consider that technology is changing, and the questions appearing on the ham radio examinations of tomorrow will be ones "that haven't been thought of yet."

In 1972 when he took his General, he said, his test included questions on Hartley and Colpitts oscillators. In contrast, today's examinations cover topics such as phase-locked loops, satellite operation and digital technology.

*(Haynie Continued on page 8)*

## COM Ports On Windows ME

Carl Morseschi N4PY courtesy of the Ten Tec reflector

I have been running Microsoft Windows ME® for 2 years now with virtually no problems.

But in order for Windows ME to work properly with the COM1 serial port, a change to the Registry is required. For those of you that have enough courage and know how to use the registry editor **REGEDIT** (see *Editor's Note* below), this is how you fix it:

- 1) Open the registry editor called **REGEDIT**.
- 2) Make a back up of the Registry files
- 3) Go down the various trees in the registry and find the entry labeled **HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\VxD\COMM**
- 4) Change **EnablePowerManagement** from **01 00 00 00** to **00 00 00 00**.
- 5) Exit **REGEDIT**.
- 6) Reboot the computer.

Great care must be taken that this is the only thing that you change in the registry.

This has worked flawlessly for me for over 2 years.

*(Editor's Note: Windows ME has a reputation for preventing the COM port from working correctly. This patch should fix that problem. However...*

*The Windows Registry, a set of Hidden files, performs many functions. Amongst many other things, it is the database that contains almost all of your Windows and programs default settings. If you are not comfortable making changes to the Registry, ask a computer professional or Windows Expert to do it for you. **Always make a backup** whenever you are going to edit the Registry files!)*



(A Visit From Murphy Continued from page 8)

We're on the air at 2:30PM instead of the starting time, noon. At 3:00 the park ranger brings the key and we move inside. There is one table that is a few inches taller than desk height. The ladder line is held down on the porch floor by the cooler, then enters the cabin thru a screened window and is connected to the Matchbox on the table. The rig, keyer and computer are also on the table. Seems like a nice one station setup. But all the bands are covered with noise. Only the strongest signals come thru. This makes it seem like there is little activity, bad propagation or both. We give our serial number 1 to a station with 57 Qs. Bill wants to send CW using the logging program instead of the memory keyer. Larry's computer uses a USB to serial port converter. This works OK when we are on 40M with the full size coax-fed antenna. But the computer crashes as soon as we try to use the Matchbox and ladder line. Why? Murphy? No, there's lots of RF floating around the shack and on the ungrounded equipment. After several tries it's back to the memory keyer.

After several hours we finally trace the source of the noise to the cooler (sitting on the ladder line). At suppertime we buy ice for the cooler.

There's not much activity after 10PM, so off to sleep. Larry is up at 4AM to check for activity – nothing anywhere. We are back on the air at 8AM and push the total Qs over the 100 mark. Several stations are in the 300s, which is where we ought to be, too. We're waiting for a 3<sup>rd</sup> op to arrive. When he does, he reports that he was lost for an hour. No one at the lake knew where the campground is.

We pack up quickly at noon, promising to be much better prepared when we return for the PA QSO party in October. We hope Murphy chooses some other site for a visit. But the last word is Murphy's:

**"You never run out of things that can go wrong"**

(Haynie Continued from page 7)

The ARRL president asserted that many Amateur Extra class licensees couldn't pass today's Element 4 examination if they had to do. Haynie said that if and when the FCC changes Amateur Radio licensing requirements in response to various petitions for rule making-(including one from the League) it will not be a matter of "dumbing down" Amateur Radio. "It's not that Amateur Radio is dumbed down," he said. "People like me have failed to keep up, and if you look in your heart, you're going to say the same thing."

"Amateur Radio is what you make of it once you get your license," Haynie continued. Getting a ham ticket doesn't make anyone more intelligent, and learning the ropes usually begins after someone already has a license in hand.

"You learn by doing," he said.

Haynie said the ARRL Board did not take lightly its latest restructuring proposal, and he acknowledged that the League's petition has not won universal praise. "It was not an overnight decision," he said, adding that the Board wanted to take a fair and evenhanded approach to restructuring.

"Whatever you enjoy about Amateur Radio, it's not going to change" as a result of any restructuring Haynie said. While the FCC might take "the path of least resistance," he believes it's more likely to take bits and pieces of the various petitions to come up with something that's would be workable and "give Amateur Radio a shot in the arm."

"We need that," Haynie concluded.



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-

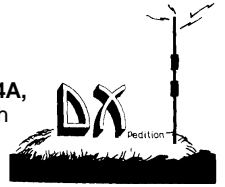
FYI4NET, or e-mail them at [sales@fyi.net](mailto:sales@fyi.net), for more details or to sign up. You **must** mention that you are a member of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** to get the discount rate.

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!

## DX News Briefs



Look for special event stations **SX1A, SX2A, SX3A, SX4A, SX5A, SX6A, SX7A, SX8A, & SX9A** to be active through August 12th to celebrate the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. They will be QRV on all bands & modes, one call QRV each day. All contacts will be confirmed with a special QSL card via the bureau; there is no QSL manager, QSL via the Greek Bureau only.

The Greek Communications Authority has announced that Greek radio amateurs may use the optional **SX2004** or **SY2004** call sign prefix through November 15th to commemorate the Athens Olympic and Paralympic Games 2004. QSL via operators instructions.

Foreign radio amateurs, as visitors in Greece, from CEPT countries or countries with reciprocal license agreements can use the special prefix **J42004** from August 1 through November 15 without any other license; all others need to communicate with Greek Authorities for special permission — SV2AEL via SV1CNS

EI5IF will be based in Monrovia, Liberia through November or December and will try to be QRV as much as possible as **EL/EI5IF**. How much will depend on his work load & available equipment, he is bringing an Alinco DX70TH with him — EI5IF

"For right now, please QSL **V26B** direct only via KA2AEV. We can not answer Bureau cards right now because of an extreme backlog of cards" — KA2AEV

K8AQM will be QRV as **5WØTR** July 7<sup>th</sup> — 21<sup>st</sup> from the Samoan Village Resort on 160 –10 meters, CW, SSB, RTTY & PSK. He also plans to be QRV during the IARU Radiosport, possibly using a special call just for the contest, possibly **5WØXX**. QSL via K8AA — KB8NW

**FT1ZL**, on Amsterdam Island (AF-002) is expected to become active soon because the French have changed their licensing structure. French operators that previously hold a VHF-only license have been granted HF bands privileges and are allowed to operate on all modes except A1A, A2A, F1A and F2A. These stations usually have a 1 or 4 in their prefix. So, look for him to be on 20/17/15/12/10 meters SSB. Suggested frequencies are: 14195, 14274, 18138, 18148, 21191, 21271, 24954, 24974, 28485 and 28495 kHz. Please go easy on Sebastien because he is not used to pile-ups — KB8NW

PA5M (ex-YI/PA5M and 9U5M) is now in Sudan and will be active for about one month using **ST2DX**. He will use his vertical from the hotel or a 10 element log periodic antenna from his work QTH with 100 watts from his FT-857. More All info about this operation including on-line log search, is available on: <http://www.pa7fm.nl> — PA5M, KB8NW

**ED8ERC** will be QRV July 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 2nd Canarias HamRadio Meeting. Activity will be on all HF bands. Operator will be EA8ZS. QSL as indicated on [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) — EA8ZS, KB8NW

## QSL Routes

<b>3D2YU</b> via YZ1AU — KC5YKX	<b>P4ØG</b> via I2EOW — W2IRT
<b>4L6AM</b> via 4Z5CU — KA7KUJ	<b>P4ØY</b> via AE6Y — WD9EWK
<b>4V2ØØYH</b> via DL7CM — N9BOR	<b>P15ØZ</b> via P14KGL — WD9EWK
<b>5C8M</b> via DJ9MH — RA3SL	<b>PJ4P</b> via DF7ZA — WD9EWK
<b>6YØA</b> via WA4WTG — KS4YT	<b>PS2T</b> via W3HC — WD9EWK
<b>6YØT</b> via K3TEJ — KS4YT	<b>PYØFF</b> via W9VA — KS4YT
<b>7P8SR</b> via NY3N — KI4RU, K4UTE	<b>R1PQ</b> via UA1RJ — RA3SL
<b>7X2RO</b> via OM3CGN — K5WW	<b>TAØKA</b> via DJ6QT — W9OL
<b>9G5KW</b> via W7XU — RA3SL	<b>TRØB</b> via F4EGS — W2IRT
<b>9V1YC</b> via N5ID — W4YCH	<b>V31FG/P</b> via DL2SWW — RA3SL
<b>CEØYEH</b> via DL8NBH — WD9EWK	<b>V47YU</b> via UA1JY — W2IRT
<b>D2PFN</b> via KK5DO — W2IRT	<b>VK9KND</b> via SP9EWP — RA3SL
<b>D88S</b> via DS4CNB — KZ2I	<b>XT2DX</b> via G3SXW — RA3SL
<b>ER1ØARM</b> via ER1DA — K8QM	<b>XT2SX</b> via G3SXW — RA3SL
<b>ET3TK</b> via OK1CU — KA2BZS	<b>YA8G</b> via LA4YW — N9BOR
<b>EZ8AQ</b> via DJ1MM — W2IRT	<b>ZAØIS</b> via IK7JWX — RA3SL
<b>EZ8CW</b> via RU4SS — RA3SL	<b>ZA1A</b> via OH2BH — W4YCH
<b>HKØGU</b> via DL7VOG — VA5DX	<b>ZF1A</b> via W5ASP — W2IRT
<b>JZ8YEH</b> via F8DBF — KS4YT	<b>ZK1VRL</b> via DL7VRL — W4YCH
<b>LR1J</b> via WD9EWK — WD9EWK	<b>ZK3SB</b> via I2YSB — CT1CNS
<b>OJØ/OHØI</b> via OH3BHL — KO1H	<b>ZW5B</b> — W3HC — WD9EWK

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 **WASHRag**. 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 **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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**For Sale:** I'll be taking the following items to the Breezeshooters Hamfest next Sunday. In the meantime if anyone is interested in any of these items please get in touch.

1. Force 12 Sigma V 20-10 meter vertical dipole. Cost new \$349 one year ago; My price \$249.
2. Force 12 Sigma 40xk 40-10 meter vertical(manual band change). Cost new one year ago \$289. My price \$189.
3. Butternut HF2 Vertical with 160 and 30 meter coils. If purchased new would cost \$580. My price \$250.
4. Daiwa SWR and Power Meter Model CN-101L \$50.
5. Vanco SWR/Watt Meter Model SWR 2, \$10.
6. MFJ 1272M Microphone/ TNC Switch \$20.

Bill Hill W3WH [w3wh@comcast.net](mailto:w3wh@comcast.net) (724) 746-1776

**For Sale:** I am downsizing my HF station into something that I can carry with me on trips since I can't play radio here from my apartment anymore. So I have several items in nearly new condition.

1. Icom IC-718 HF 160-10m Radio 100w w/ UT-106 DSP and UT-102 Speech installed. Manual/ Hand Mc / Power Cable included. Would Like \$525 OBO
2. West Mountain Radio RigBlaster Pro (setup for Icom) Multi-Mode audio Interface with Manual, CD and All Cables. I bought it form \$289 last year at Breezeshooters. Would Like \$225 OBO
3. LDG AT-11MP Automatic Antenna Tuner w/ Power Cable, Control Cable for ICOM 718/706, Coax Patch Cable. Would like \$100 OBO
4. Heil HM-10 Dual Microphone w/ Cable for Icom, Desk Mount Short Boom, Desk Stand, Hand Switch and Carrying Case. Would Like \$130 OBO
5. Astron RS-20 20-amp Power Supply. Would Line \$30 OBO

Or How about someone take the whole package from me for \$850.  
Shawn L. Djernes. NØPEU [shawn@djernes.org](mailto:shawn@djernes.org) (412) 257-3252

## FCC News

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

Newington, CT, May 27<sup>th</sup> —The FCC has extended the deadline to file reply comments in its broadband over power line (BPL) proceeding, ET Docket 04-37, from Tuesday, June 1, to Tuesday, June 22. The Commission released its BPL *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* February 23, and the initial comment deadline passed May 3.

The FCC acted on a request from the *National Antenna Consortium* for a much longer filing deadline extension. The NAC/Amherst petition cited the anticipated release of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Phase 2 BPL study in making its request for a filing delay. The organizations said the FCC was not allowing stakeholders adequate time to prepare comments to address the two-part NTIA report on BPL interference. The FCC said the NTIA has indicated that it will submit comments and a technical appendix in the BPL proceeding this week. Those submissions are expected to contain key findings of the Phase 2 report, due to be released later this year.



"We believe that three weeks should provide ample time for review and analysis of this information, and accordingly grant the extension for that period," said FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Edmond J. Thomas, who signed the *Order Granting Extension of Time* released May 27. NAC/Amherst had sought to have the FCC postpone the filing comment deadline until either September 1 or two months after the public release of the NTIA's Phase 2 study — whichever was later. The FCC said the groups "presented no specific justification for such a longer time, nor is one evident to us." The FCC said the additional three weeks should be "ample time" to respond to the anticipated NTIA submission "as long as it is filed reasonably close to the anticipated date of May 28.

Noting that its Part 15 rules already permit Access BPL systems and that its BPL *NPRM* places additional requirements on BPL systems over and above what Part 15 already requires, the FCC said to further delay the proceeding would diminish the Commission's ability to protect licensed users now occupying the HF spectrum. In addition, the FCC said, a further extension "would needlessly increase regulatory uncertainty about this technology's promise to deliver broadband services" to US consumers.

The FCC *Order* turned down a request that the FCC reissue in a substantially more detailed form the provisions of its proposed BPL rules concerning interference prevention and mitigation and the enforcement of standards. The FCC said that NAC/Amherst provided no compelling reason nor did it suggest how the FCC's proposed rules were insufficiently described.

The FCC does not routinely grant such time extensions, and it denied earlier petitions, including filings from the ARRL and NAC/Amherst, to extend the initial comment filing deadline, which was May 3. The League and others said commenters needed more time to digest the NTIA's Part 1 BPL study.

Earlier this year, FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell turned down a request by US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI, to delay further action on the BPL proceeding until the NTIA study's had been released and stakeholders had had a chance to evaluate it before commenting.

Connecticut Attorney Don Schellhardt is a co-founder of The Amherst Alliance and served as its first national coordinator. He's the NAC's vice president for government relations and membership development and an associate ARRL member.

## WASH Apparel Updates!

Dan KB3HVN & OGS 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 "2<sup>nd</sup> generation" jackets that Steve W3SRL handled the orders for, about 6 – 7 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. The patch will be sewn directly onto the jacket; additional embroidery if desired at a small additional cost.

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

# **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest**

**Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Sponsored by the Breezeshooters**

**Butler Farm Show Grounds / Roe Airport, State Route 66, Butler PA**

(The Farm Show Grounds are West of Butler between Butler and Evans City)

**Talk-In on W3UDX/R 147.360+ Repeater**

VE Testing courtesy of the Ellwood City ARA starting at 12 Noon

ARRL Level 1 ECOM Testing for EC001

Testing starting at 12 Noon at the CB Ranger Building

To register for testing go to:

[http://www.qsl.net/ecara/register\\_1.html](http://www.qsl.net/ecara/register_1.html)

Prize Tickets \$2.00 Each or 3/\$5.00, 7/\$10, 15/\$20

For more information & updated list of 2004 Hamfest Prizes please go to

<http://www.breezeshooters.net/hamfest/hamfest.htm>

## **Sixth Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest**

**Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 from approximately 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

**At the WASH Location Somewhere in the Flea Market**

(Look for us in the vicinity of the Grandstand — the Hex Beam will be up, weather & location permitting!)

Spend the morning meeting your fellow WPA & Regional Hams, buying or selling stuff & dodging roving golf carts full of Breezeshooters — then join your fellow WASH members for lunch, friendship, bragging rights, and (if operational) operating N3SH/3 from the Flea Market.

This will be a "Pot Luck/Covered Dish" Picnic — The Club will be providing Burgers, Hot Dogs, and Soft Drinks. We're asking everyone coming to bring a side dish, snacks, dessert, ice, or whatever they can. Contact Ron WN3VAW [wn3vaw@njdxa.org](mailto:wn3vaw@njdxa.org) to coordinate who's bringing what.

There is no charge to attend (outside of bringing something to share) but the picnic is not open to the general public, only WASH members (including their families), friends & invited guests.

## **19<sup>th</sup> Annual North Hills ARC Hamfest**

**New Date!**

**Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Northland Library, Cumberland Road, Wexford**

**Talk-in on W3EXW/3 147.09 MHz**

**For more information, e-mail [aa3ta@verizon.net](mailto:aa3ta@verizon.net)**





# 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"/> <b>1st Qtr</b> <b>Jan-Mar</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>2nd Qtr</b> <b>Apr-Jun</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>3rd Qtr</b> <b>Jul-Sept</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>4th Qtr</b> <b>Oct-Dec</b>
<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
<b>Sub-Total</b>					
<b>6 % Sales Tax</b>					
<b>Total Enclosed</b>					

<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:*

- NTIA Readies Phase 2 of their BPL report... are they backing down?
- Equipment Review!
- Murphy and the Mid-Atlantic QSO Party!
- Don't forget about the WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest!
- **All this and more... waiting for your right inside these pages!!!**



## *Breakfast at the Starting Line Café*

If you've never been able to make one of the monthly **WASH** club breakfasts, this should give you an idea of what you're missing!

Now your next task is to try and identify everyone in the picture!

Photo courtesy of and are ©Copyright 2004 Jacques Gosselin N3ZEL

**See You at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest on Sunday June 6th & at the **WASH** Club Picnic there!**  
**Don't forget to bring your camera!**

## 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/B

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