



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 6 Issue 2

February 2004

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

NEWINGTON, CT, January 19th, 2004 — The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement (now 5 WPM) only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals — developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July — are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring *Report and Order* (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" The plan adopted by the Board departs only slightly from the Executive Committee's recommendations.

The entry-level license class — being called "Novice" for now — would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It was also seen as important to limit the scope of privileges so the exam would not have to include material that is inappropriate at the entry level."

As an introduction to Amateur Radio, the Novice license served successfully for most of its 50-year history. The FCC has not issued new Novice licenses since the 2000 license restructuring, however. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees — now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs — would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

(ARRL Proposal Continued on page 6)

Top of the Hill



Now that the holidays are past we're beginning to get our Club year in motion. Of course the most important upcoming event is our **WASHFest** on February 29th. This is always an enjoyable Sunday morning with good food and fellowship for all. Come and have a few "eyeball" QSO's drink some free coffee and who knows you may even go home with a treasure or two!

Since our January meeting our 2 meter simplex contest was held. It seemed that participation was down a bit but those of us who worked the event had a very enjoyable evening. Work has begun on organizing a kit night beginning in late march or early April. Steve, W3SRL, is working on a couple of ideas to give us a choice of kits to tackle.

The ARRL has been busy making announcements. One of interest is their new Elmering program and secondly a controversial entry level licensing proposal. If we don't hve time to present and discuss these at the next meeting perhaps we can talk about them on the Sunday night Net.

Stay warm and please come to the next meeting Thursday February 12th

— 73, Bill Hill W3WH, President
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

WASHFest 2004 This Month!

Next Meeting: February 12th, 2004

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, February 12th, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Tonight's guest speaker will be Kevin Smith N3HKQ on the new AMSAT ECHO Satellite. We'll also be firming up **WASHFest 2004** planning!

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

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

February & March NCS Stations:

02/01 Bill W3WH
02/08 Kevin N3HKQ
02/15 Hank KB3FNM
02/22 Bell Family
02/29 Michael KB3HF3

03/07 Frank KB3FZU
03/14 Bill W3WH
03/21 Kevin N3HKQ
03/28 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:

- WASHFest 04 February 29th
- Two Rivers ARC Hamfest March 14th Boston, PA (new location)

February 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	2 Groundhog Day Greater Pgh VHS Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	3 Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	4 WACOM Meeting (moved) Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	5 No WACOM Meeting! RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net Net	6 Elco ARS Meeting	7 RA Erie VE Test Beaver Valley ARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
8 W3C OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	9 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	10 Foothills ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Punxsatowney AARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net	11 North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VHS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	12 WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net Net	13 2 Rivers ARC Ham 'n' Eggs Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast	14 Valentines Day Breezeshooters Groundwave NHARC/Breezeshooters VE Butler Co ARA VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
15 Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	16 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	17 S H B P & M Meeting Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting Junata Valley ARC Meeting WACOM Net	18 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	19 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARC Mtng Uniontown ARC Net Net	20	21 ARRL DX CW Foothills ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
22 ARRL DX CW OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	23 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	24 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	25 North Hills ARC Activity Nite Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Penn State ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	26 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net Net	27	28 WASH Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
WASHFest 2004! OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	W3C Special Event Station, Commemorating the Washington County Sportsmen's Show at the Washington Mall, operated by WACOM. Look for them near the Radio Snack store. QSL via Ed N3ZNI Any WASH member who'd like to come down and help WACOM operate the W3C station are more than welcome! Contact Ed N3ZNI for more information.					

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
Larry Comden K3VX
Ted Huf W4ZE
Activities & Operating Events Carol Danko KB3GMN
Ways & Means Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Media Communications Ben Williams KB3ERQ
Allegheny Co ARES Representative

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS & BEACONS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RN/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

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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 N3RN/R Repeater System and the N3BV/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Shawn Djernes NØPEU for providing space on-line for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at www.washarc.org or www.djernes.org/washrag

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test April 15th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, April 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 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

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

Please bring the following to your test session:

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

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

A typical January morning in Western PA (you know, lousy weather predictions) brought the **WASH Breakfast Gang** together at **King's Family Restaurant** on Route 19 @ McClelland Road on January 31st. This month's usual suspects included N3SBF, KB3GMN, K3LGM & his daughter Rebecca, N3ZEL, N3ZNI, KB3JHM, KB3FNM and his wife Mary Lou, KB3CPI, W4ZE, W3RJM, KB4GCS, N3HKQ, and W8LEV, a very nice turnout with more unable to attend because of the weather. Sorry that we have no reports on the conversation topics this month!

You never know who's going to show up or what the topic of the morning will be, so don't miss out! The next Club Breakfast will be the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, pre-**WASHFest** on February 28th, and we return to **King's Family Restaurant** on Route 19 @ McClelland Road on March 27th. See you there!

Call Update: Dave KB3GOT is now K3LGM. Congratulations!

The **WASH 2 Meter Contest** is now history. Don't forget to send your logs in by the deadline to N3ZNI! Remember, every entry gets a free main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2004!**

Speaking of WASHFest, no, you didn't miss the usual front page article reminding you (again) of the event. Not that it's not important! But there were two good reasons for that; first, the important news from the ARRL on their proposed restructuring, and second, because **WASHFest** takes place on the last day of the month, we're going to try to roll the March newsletter out early in order to get it in everyone's hands before the event. That way we can cover any last minute details or reminders as needed.

Needless to say, though, we will need the usual help from all club members in morning set up, vendor assistance, ticket sales, parking, talk-in, and so on. And don't forget to talk up the hamfest whenever you can on the air, on nets, when you bump into a friend, anytime (without being obnoxious, of course). If you don't know what you can do to help, contact someone on the hamfest committee and volunteer, they'll find a good spot for you!

WASHFest is the first hamfest of the year and our best chance each year to shine in front of our fellow amateurs. When we do a good job (and we always seem to do a great job!) our hamfest gets talked about for months. Let's keep up the good work!

Dayton 2004 Update: Greg KQ3DX informs us that of the six rooms he's reserved for Dayton this year, three have been "filled," and one is half-filled, as several of the "regulars" are passing on the trip west this year. Greg is going to talk to some friends in nearby clubs to see if anyone else wishes to join the group this year, otherwise the extra room reservations will be turned back in to the University of Dayton for those on the waiting list.

So if you are interested in joining us for the annual Dayton trip, drop Greg an email at kq3dx@hotmail.com and let him know. Each suite holds four people comfortably, and the cost per person will be a little over \$60 for the weekend — that works out to \$20 per person per night (the rooms are reserved from Thursday Night through Sunday morning).

On the mend: Bumped into Ed W3VFA the other day. His hip replacement surgery went very well (he's now walking without pain and without a cane for the first time in years) and he plans to make the February meeting. Glad to hear it!

It's that time of year again: One thing you can count on at the beginning of the year is the reminders that dues for the year are now, ah, due. Dues and hamfest proceeds comprise the money that keeps the club running, that pays for Field Day & Pa QSO Party expenses, and occasionally lets us buy a new toy or two for everyone to use. 'nuff said. So please, send in your renewal today, bring it to the next meeting, or bring it to the club table at **WASHfest!**

Speaking of the Pa QSO Party, preliminary results from the contest web site indicate that for the three club stations, N3SH won Multi-Op for Allegheny County, WA3SH won Multi-Op for Fayette County, and NP2SH won Multi-Op for the US Virgin Islands section (and set the record for VI too!). In Allegheny County, N3KFD appears to have placed 7th, and N3RDV 10th. In Washintgon County, N3ZEL is 2nd. And N3ZNI placed 8th amongst the mobiles. N3SH was the Club Winner for the multi-op stations, N3ZEL was the Club Winner for the single-op stations. No club stations had a Clean Sweep this year, with N3SH missing one county and three other stations missing two. Congratulations to all concerned on a great effort!

January 15th VE Test Results

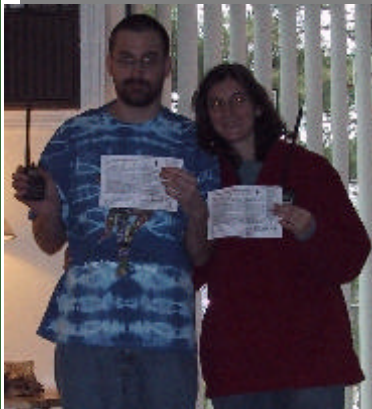
We had one candidate at our January 15th VEC test session, held at the Peters Township Library in McMurray (Peters Township) PA. He successfully earned an upgraded license!

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

General: Hank Marzina KB3FNM
 WASH VE Team: Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
 Steve Lane W3SRL
 Ron Notarius WN3VAW
 Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
 Dave Wagner KB3GOT

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

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL



Welcome Diane Lusardi KB1KRJ and Brian Glidden KB1KRI to the ham community! My sister Diane was interested in ham radio shortly after they over-turned their SUV on the back roads of Maine coming back from a ski trip (and their cell phones did NOT have coverage -- Ugh!). I mentioned that if they had their licenses, that

would not have been a problem....Well, unlike MOST of the .955 repeater listeners...she took me seriously... hi hi :) Anyway, as her brother, I am very proud of her accomplishments - especially in this endeavor!

— Paul Lusardi NØVLR

Internet rumors to the contrary: Ten-Tec is not for sale. "This has been circulating for quite some time now. I have no idea how it got started. Ten-Tec is not entertaining offers to be bought by MFJ or anyone else" states Scott Robbins W4PA, Amateur Radio Product Manager for Ten-Tec. He also requests that if someone asks, forward that information along to them.

Minutes, January 8th Meeting

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

Bill, W3WH, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours. There were 25 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 December meeting as published in the January newsletter. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark reported the club's account balances.

Secretary (KB3FZU): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session will be January 15th 2004.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): Pete N3RNX, reports that all is working fine. Steve, W3SRL, agrees.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): The net control schedule is out and is complete until the end of March. The participation in the net has dropped so Kevin is looking for ideas to improve the weekly net and make it better. By the way . . . Please remove the batteries when you are done with the MFJ-259 antenna analyzer, they can leak. Bill asked about adding regularly scheduled discussion topics to the net. Bob, W3RJM suggested moving it to 8 PM. Both ideas were discussed and it was decided that leaving it at the current time was best for now.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): Carol, KB3GMN - There will be a 50/50 raffle after the meeting.

Public Service (N3RDV): Mark, N3RDV, reports that help is needed for the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Contests (K3VX): Larry, K3VX - The 2 meter simplex is this Saturday. Larry went through a description of the contest.

Activities (K3VX): Larry, K3VX - The Mid Atlantic QSO party is a brand new contest on May 8th and 9th. It will involve 237 possible counties!

Please think about this – a joint picnic with WACOM for example, perhaps over the summer?

Newsletter (WN3VAW): Ron, WN3VAW - The January edition of the newsletter is out. It is a little big because of the pictures. If you did not receive it, please let Ron know. Also, please let Ron know if your e-mail address has changed. Bill asked that a revised club roster be prepared and sent to every paid member.

President's Report (W3WH): Dues are due – please fill out a new application so Mark has a record of the transaction. If the pertinent information has not changed, it is ok to fill in 'same.' Please indicate yes or no if you are an ARRL member. Please indicate on this form if you do not want your name on the roster.

Paul NØVLR would like to relinquish the duties of N3SH/WA3SH QSL manager. Any takers?

We would like to have a program for most of the meetings. WB4GCS, Jim, is ready willing and able to do a program in March. We will arrange another program in Feb. Steve, W3SRL, is able to do a presentation on PSK 31.

Larry asked if there was any interest in a program about meters and their applications. Larry has a collection of old ones. See Frank, KB3FZU, if this interests you or if you have any other program ideas.

Hamfest (W3SRL): The Hamfest is the last day of February – the 29th this year at the Castle Shannon VFD. The main prize is an Icom 706 MKIIG. Also up for grabs is an MFJ Antenna Analyzer, and an Automatic Antenna Tuner. Hank, KB3FNM, will print the tickets. We will need people at 5 AM to set up the hall. More details at the February meeting. We are well under way to have a successful Hamfest.

Old Business: Looking for a volunteer for the refreshment committee to bring soda and snacks to the meeting. Kevin, N3HKQ, and Jan, KB3IVX, volunteered.

Is there interest in another non-business meeting? Paul suggested once a quarter. Bob proposed that we investigate using Steel City ARC's location on a Friday or Saturday.

Two people are needed to act as the activities committee. When asked to step forward, three members volunteered: Steve, W3SRL, Paul, NØVLR, and Bob, W3RJM.

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 5)

WASH Spotlight



W3RJM, WB4GCS, W8LEV and KB3FNM having a great time talking (the food's getting cold guys!) during the January Club Breakfast.

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2004 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

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.com

Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, February 28th

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 the **Your Way Café**, 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	KB3GMN	KE7FD	N3SBF	W3JAF	Barbara Mistic
AA3JS	KB3GMO	KE8RN	N3SRC	W3RJM	David Delmonico
AB3AB	KB3GMP	KQ3DX	N3TBK	W3RWS	
K3BZW	KB3GMU	NØPEU	N3UE	W3SRL	Silent Keys
K3JDS	KB3GZG	NØVLR	N3UIV	W3VE	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3GUZ	NØWPV	N3VEH	W3VFA	KB3ENX
K3OL	KB3HFP	N2QIV	N3WPT	W3WH	KB3FQT
K3PCF	KB3HVN	N3AWF	N3XI	W4ZE	N3KEH
K3VX	KB3IAC	N3BSQ	N3YPB	W8LEV	N3OBD
K3WR	KB3ICC	N3CZZ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	N3SKR
K9LZ	KB3IJX	N3FZ	N3ZCG	WB3BPH	W3ZLK
KA3PPH	KB3IRQ	N3HKQ	N3ZEG	WB4GCS	
KA3TFB	KB3IVW	N3IDH	N3ZEH	WB3GTL	Color Codes:
KA3UPY	KB3IVX	N3INT	N3ZEL	WN3BOJ	2004 Member
KA3WZO	KB3QX	N3KFD	N3ZNI	WN3VAW	2003 Member
KA3YTS	KC2JJB	N3PN	N4MIS	WO3Z	2002 Member
KB3ANH	KC4WTT	N3QMV	NP2JF		2001 Member
KB3CPI	KC6VLV	N3RDV	N8DPW		(2000 and earlier members no longer displayed)
KB3DCO	KD3JV	N3RHT	W3GEL		
KB3EPI	KE3XB	N3RNX	W3HND		

Through January 31st, 2004
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2004 Breezeshooters Ground Wave Contests

Dates & Times: CW Saturday, 14 February 2004, 8:00 PM to Midnight EST
SSB Saturday, 20 March 2004, 8:00 PM to Midnight EST

Eligibility: This contest is open to all amateurs using the Ten Meter Band

Eligible Contacts: Any ten meter ground wave contact in the area is valid.

Awards: Certificates will be given to the top three entries in each category.

Competition Categories:

- A) **Zone One** any power not more than 125 watts output
- B) **Zone Two** any power not more than 125 watts output
- C) **Zone Three** any power not more than 125 watts output
- D) **Zone Four** any power not more than 125 watts output
- E) **Low Power** any zone, radio not capable of more than 30 watts output
- F) **Multi-Operator or Club** any zone, any power not more than 125 watts output; list all operators
- G) **Mobile** any power not more than 125 watts output

Map: Mark your **exact** location on the map. Each entry must have the location of operation indicated, with **colored marker**, on the map provided (see web site if you did not receive one in the mail). If your location is off the map, please so note and indicate closest Grid Square with an arrow.

This map must be returned with completed logs and summary sheet. Incomplete logs and logs received after the deadline will be disqualified and used as "Check Logs."

Duplicate contacts: Enter only one contact per station worked per contest, regardless of square. Duplicate contacts are penalized loss of contact and eight (8) additional points.

Logs: If possible, use the log sheets provided on the web site, or approved logging software. Otherwise, indicate call, time, grid number, mode, and points for each QSO.

Mobile stations: Must indicate between appropriate entries in the log any change in grid number.

Portable: Entered as categories A through F, must specify location of portable operation.

Multi-Operator: Please list all operations.

Important: Send separate logs for SSB & CW!

Power: High power is restricted to not more than 125 watts output. Low power, category "E", is intended for low power rigs, 30 watts or less output.

Exchange: The exchange consists of call and contest grid number (see **Grids & Zones** below). It will not be necessary to give your zone.

Scoring: For a QSO with a station in the same grid square as you are, score one point. For a QSO with a station in a different grid square, use the grid key sheet to determine the total point value of the contact. Any station outside the grid should use the Grid Square closest to their operation location as their home grid.

Scoring Example: A Square 25 station works another station in Square 49. Using the grid key sheet, locate row 25 and follow the line across the sheet to the point of intersection with column 49. This will give the point value of the contact. In this case the point value of 4 will be given for this contact.

Grids & Zones: The contest grid center is located in respect to the Point in Pittsburgh, PA. There are 49 Squares in the grid, each one is approximately 25 miles square. The contest zones are made up of various squares in the grid as follows:

Zone 1	Square 25
Zone 2	Square 17 18 19 24 26 31 32 33
Zone 3	Square 9 10 11 12 13 16 20 23 27 30 34 37 38 39 40 41
Zone 4	Square 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 14 15 21 22 28 29 35 36 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 & any other location outside the grid

Check the map for your square before the contest begins. This information will be necessary for your Exchange, as it will be your grid number. Also, check the map for your zone. This information will be necessary for your log summary sheet; it will **not** be a necessary part of your exchange.

If a grid line bisects a town or city, the contestant must determine to the best of his/her ability their proper home square.

Use the actual location of operation and not a mailing address. Logs **will** be disqualified if the incorrect zone is used.

Entries: Include summary sheet with call sign, name, address, class of license, equipment used, total claimed score, and entry category. Be sure to sign your log, and submit it postmarked no later than April 9th, 2004 to:

**Breezeshooters
Groundwave Contest**

PO Box 100158

Pittsburgh PA 15233-0158.

Please mark your entry category (A – G) on the left front of your envelope.

Each person submitting a log will receive one free ticket for the main prizes at the Breezeshooters Hamfest.

All submitted logs become the property of the Breezeshooters and will not be returned.

The decision of the Board of Directors is final.

Entry deadline: Logs must be signed and postmarked by April 9th, 2004.

Web Site: All information, including complete rules, software, the map, log pages, and grid sheet is available on-line at

<http://www.breezeshooters.net>

Hotline: 412-826-8006

2004 Groundwave Chairman: Bob Benna N3LWP

**Two contests, Four fun filled hours each,
only on the Ten Meter Band!**

Who's On First?

It was recently brought to our attention that a local organization is claiming to be "the original" amateur radio club located in the South Hills area.

Well, as anyone who's been around awhile knows, this simply isn't true, especially of a group that's only been together for more-or-less 6 years or so.

And no, we're no staking a claim to the title. Far from it! The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** has only been around for roughly 11 years. Many other radio clubs based in the South Hills of Pittsburgh predate us. The **Western Pennsylvania Hill Toppers** for one have us beat by a few years; the now inactive **Point Radio Operators Society** dates back to the mid 1980's or even earlier.

Truth be told, of all the clubs known to have ever existed in the South Hills over the years, pending evidence to the contrary, the honor for "the original" can only go to one:

The South Hills Brass Pounders & Modulators, founded in 1937.

The Brass Pounders still meet monthly in the Whitehall Borough Building, now on the Third Tuesday of the month. Drop by some time and them all said "hi!"

Of course, you know by now about a certain NP2SH picture that made the February issue of QST... so we won't remind you, especially since W3SRL knows where we live...

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

New Business: Dan, KB3HVN, would like to see a club activity like a Santa night where we go into a hospital and connect kids to Santa via Amateur Radio. Bill appointed Dan to be in charge of that event

Good of the Order: The South Hills Brass Pounders and Modulators still meet; their meeting is now on the third Tuesday of the month at the Whitehall Borough building.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Carol, KB3GMN, and seconded by Bob, W3RJM. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 19:51.

ARRL Proposal (continued from Page 1)

Anticipating assertions that the new plan would "dumb down" Amateur Radio licensing, Harrison said those currently holding a ticket often perceive the level of complexity to have been greater when they were first licensed than it actually was. "Quite frankly," he said, "if you review the questions presented in our license manuals throughout the years, you will be surprised how they compare to those of today."

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be consolidated into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants. ARRL already has proposed additional phone privileges for Generals in its "Novice refarming" petition, RM-10413, but the FCC has not yet acted on that petition.

At the top rung, the Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. The League's plan calls for current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees to receive lifetime Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said. "It also simplifies the FCC database by conforming to the current Universal Licensing System (ULS) structure and does not mandate any modifications to it."

Sumner concurred. "The Board started out by recognizing that three license classes was the right number when looking down the road 10 or 15 years," he said. "We need a new entry-level license."

"On the other hand, there's nothing particularly wrong with the existing Extra class license," he continued. "The change in the international regulations notwithstanding, the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment in the FCC's amateur licensing structure should include basic Morse capability."

Sumner and Harrison say the current Technician entry-level ticket provides little opportunity to experience facets of ham radio beyond repeater operation. "The quality of that experience," Sumner said, "often depends on the operator's location."

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter the current HF subbands. The V meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands

DX News Briefs



PA9JJ will be QRV as **C56IJ** from March 29th through April 5th. He will be using an FG-100 and a G5RV; he will try to set up a 160 antenna but doesn't know how successful it will be with local QRN. QSL info is at www.qrz.com/c56jj — PA9JJ

"Please advise your subscribers that I am **NOT** the QSL manager for **KH7R**. I continue to get requests for KH7R confirmations. I think this started because I do manage for the late **KL7Y** who last operated from the KH7R contest station immediately before his untimely passing." — W8LU

"Are there any other fellow hams who would like to join with several of us and travel off to Swaziland (**3DA0**)? Will be flying out of Atlanta on South African Airlines on the morning of 11 March. return around the 20th or 22nd. The cost is under \$2000. Would like to have at least 4 more to join. 1 for phone and 3 for CW. This way I can get Andre to set up 2 stations. I hope to have some equipment so can try to work AO40 along with RTTY, PSK31 and if it works SlowScan TV. If you cannot make this trip, how about next July going to **A22** in time for the IARU contest?" — K5LBU www.dxsafari.com

4U1UN was QRV from about 1430Z January 30th — 0200Z January 31st. QSL via CBA. The operators were KU9C, W3UR and KB3JUI. — W3UR

J3/AA1M and **J3/W1USN** will be QRV from Grenada through February 6th. Activity will be on CW, SSB and some PSK on the HF bands. QSL to their home calls — VA3RJ

NO2R is now QRV as **XU7ACY** from Sihanoukville through February 9th. Activity will be on 160, 80 and 40 meters exclusively. QSL via K2NJ — OPDX

SMØCCM will be QRV as **J73CCM** from Dominica February 5th — March 4th. He will operate on 160 through 6 meter CW, with some RTTY and PSK. QSL via home call, preferably through the bureau — VA3RJ

LA5HE will be QRV as **JW5HE** February 12th — 18th. He will emphasize the low bands and CW. QSL via LA5HE (\$) — LA5HE

AE6Y will be QRV during the ARRL DX CW Contest as **P4ØY**. Operations before the contest may be limited due to required station maintenance — AE6Y

Also during the contest look for **9M6NA** on 80 meters. He will be QRV from February 17th — March 2nd. QSL via JE1JKL — OPDX, VA3RJ

K6VVA will be QRV as **KP2CW** during the contest. QSL via K6VAA — VA3RJ

P4ØW will be the contest call of W2GD. QSL via W2MM — OPDX

DL7AFS & DJ7ZG, will be active from February 16th to 27th. as **VK9LB** & **VK9LL**. Activity will be on 80-6 meters on SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via DL7AFS

FM/F5FUA will be QRV through February 24th. QSL via REF bureau — F5NQL

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

W3UR reports that if you worked **4U1UN** after about 0200Z on January 31st, you worked a pirate — W3UR

There was some speculation that an early January operation by **9J2BO** on 80 meters might be Slim, but QSL Manager G3TEV confirms that Brian was QRV and that he has the logs — WB6RSE

QSL Routes

3B9ZL via FR5ZL — WØMM	J2ØDA via DJ6SI — W9OL
4K7Z via UA3FDX — RW4NM, 4J9RI	J37VG via AA1IZ — W9OL
6Y8A via WA4WTG — N9BOR	JY8YB via DL5MBY — W4YCH
7P8NK via VA7DX — KS4YT	JY9QJ via DL5MBY — W4YCH
7X4AN via DJ2BW — K8SIX	KH2/KK2H via JL1UXH — W4YCH
9K2MU via WA4JTK — KRØI	S21YY via JM1HXU — N5ZM
CEØY/SP9EVP via SP9EVP — N9BOR	T31MY via OM2SA — N1NK
CN2R via W7EJ — W4YCH	T88VC via JA7OVC — W9IXX
CY9A via N5VL — W9OL	TAØKA via DJ6QT — DL6ZFG
D4B via K1BV — W4RQ	VK9XW via DL2RMC — W9OL
D88S via DS4CNB — KU4BP	VP9I via KQ1F — N9BOR
FO/DF6IC via DF6IC — W9OL	XQ3/IZ6BRN via IZ6BRN — K8QM
FW5ZL via FR5ZL — WØMM	YI9X via OM3JW — KU4BP
H4ØMY via JAØIXW — RW4NM	YJØAMY via OM2SA — N9BOR
HP1/DL2OE via DL7CM — W9OL	ZK2BG via DH3NB — KU4BP

Announcing:

Pittsburgh's First On-line DX Cluster!!

(Actually, it is the only Southwestern PA online cluster.)

Ed Wolf N3UE has put together the N3YQX DX Cluster, running the DXSpider DX Cluster Software.

Via radio: 145.010MHz, connect to N3YQX (local EN90wi)

Via telnet: dxc.no-ip.com:7300

Via the web: <http://dxc.no-ip.com:9000/cgi-bin/spider.cgi>

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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Thank You! from the members of **GS-SWPA Brownie Troop 796** to all of the club members who purchased Girl Scout cookies during January. Cookies will be delivered starting in mid-February as soon as the boxes are delivered to the troop leaders and distributed.

For those who missed out, or who would like to get more, the troop will be selling additional boxes of cookies during the weekly Bingo Night, on Tuesday, March 2nd, at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall from about 6:00 – 7:30 PM.



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.

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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 News

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

NEWINGTON, CT, February 2nd, 2004 — The FCC is working on at least two fronts to eliminate unlicensed operation from the 10-meter band. Earlier this month, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth sent warning notices to two shipping companies regarding reports to the Commission that some of the companies' vehicles may be the source of illegal radio transmissions on the amateur band. One of the companies, UPS, has offered its full cooperation.

"Many truckers use CB radio, which does not require a license," Hollingsworth pointed out in letters earlier this month to UPS offices in Ohio and Indiana and to R&L Transfer Inc of Ohio. "However, any person using a radio transmitter on the Amateur Radio bands must possess a station and operator license." Hollingsworth asked the over-the-road shippers to advise their drivers that such radio operation could subject them to heavy fines and seizure of their radio equipment.

UPS Attorney Daniel N. Tenfelde last week assured Hollingsworth that his company was taking its *Warning Notice* seriously and has launched a full investigation.

"We discovered that some employees had obtained CB radios that contained a mechanism allowing them to switch frequencies into the 10-meter Amateur Radio band," he said in a January 28 letter. "It is not UPS policy to allow equipment such as this to be used in our vehicles." He said UPS' contract with the Teamsters Union allows only for CB radios. Tenfelde said UPS is working with its transportation and labor groups to let drivers know that such unlicensed operation violates both UPS policy and FCC regulations.

In a parallel development, the FCC issued a *Citation* to Jonathan Edward Stone, doing business as Omnitronics/Pacetrronics for alleged violation of §302(b) of the Communications Act and §2.803(a)(1) of the Commission's rules.

An investigation by the FCC's Dallas field office led the Commission to allege that Omnitronics/Pacetrronics was offering more than two dozen uncertificated "Citizens Band" transceivers via its Web site. The FCC says Omnitronics/Pacetrronics was marketing the units as Amateur Radio equipment, which does not require FCC certification (formerly known as "type acceptance"), and a check of the company's Web site generally confirmed that assertion.

"The Commission has evaluated radio frequency devices similar to those listed and concluded that the devices at issue are not only amateur radios but can easily be altered for use as Citizens Band devices as well," said the FCC *Citation* from FCC Dallas District Director James D. Wells. The FCC said it concluded that the devices fall within the definition of CB transmitters and therefore "cannot legally be imported or marketed in the United States." That would include so-called "export" models, the *Citation* said, pointing to a 2000 revision of §2.1204(a)(5) of its rules.

Citing §95.655(a) of the FCC's rules, Wells noted that "dual-use CB and Amateur Radio of the kind at issue here may not be certificated under the Commission's rules." He said the clarification was added to Part 95--which governs the Citizens Band--"to explicitly foreclose the possibility of certification of dual-use CB and amateur radios and thereby deter use by CB operators of frequencies allocated for Amateur Radio use."

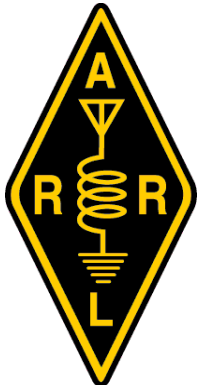
The FCC *Citation* also warned Unitronics/Pacetrronics regarding the requirement of FCC certification of external RF amplifiers or amplifier kits capable of operating below 144 MHz as well as the prohibition against marketing RF amplifiers or amplifier kits capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz.

Most of the transceivers in question carry brand names unfamiliar within the amateur community — such as Connex, Galaxy, General and Superstar. Radios being marketed as amateur gear are shown on the Unitronics/Pacetrronics Web site displaying 27.185 MHz on the dial — CB channel 19. Some of the purported amateur transceivers have only a channel readout display, not a frequency display, and only operate on AM or FM modes. For an additional charge, Omnitronics/Pacetrronics offers such accessories as roger beeps, "turbo echo" and what it calls "basic" and "professional" alignment.

The only recognized amateur manufacturer on the list in the FCC's *Citation* is Ranger. The FCC *Citation* singled out the Ranger models RCI-2950DX (a 10-meter transceiver) and RCI-2970DX (a dual-band 10/12-meter unit). Both are shown on the Omnitronics/Pacetrronics Web site displaying 27.185 MHz, and the ad copy notes, "you can use this radio in the roughest environments. (Yes, even a Mack.)"



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Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:
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C/O Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
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Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

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Inside This Issue:

- ARRL Proposes New License Structure!
- FCC Cracks Down on 10 Meter Intruders & Illegal Radios!
- Guess which family has a new ham?
- **WASHFest 2004** Is Coming **Feb. 29th**!

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



Breakfast at Kings!

Some of the WASH Breakfast Gang & guests during the January eating, er, meeting at Kings's Family Restaurant.

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2004 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

The WASHRag

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