



Bush Endorses BPL

Any doubt that the FCC is about to rubber-stamp a power industry push to permit Broadband Over Powerline (BPL) technology, despite serious technical problems with most of the systems proposed or tested to date, was essentially erased when President George W. Bush gave a speech at the American Association of Community College's convention on April 26th, less than a week before comments on the BPL NPRM (ET Dockets 03-104 & 04-37) were due. President Bush has previously been a proponent of increased citizen access to broadband technology in general and in rural areas in particular, but this speech, for the first time known, specified BPL as one of the methods to do this.

In his speech (of which the relevant portions are printed elsewhere in the newsletter) President Bush discussed the need to change technical standards and to otherwise ease the regulatory burden on the fledgling BPL industry. Many now fear that this, along with other recent comments from the BPL industry (also in this newsletter) indicate that the FCC will soon begin the process to remove the technical burdens that would, in theory, prevent BPL from causing interference to Amateur Radio, public service, military, international air, Citizen's Radio, and other users of the HF and VHF-Low spectrum.

ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JBP has called on President Bush to repudiate these remarks in view of BPL's known problems. As of press time, no such announcement had come from the White House.

Meanwhile, on April 27th, the federal NTIA (the FCC for government agencies and users) released their initial report on the potential interference problems that BPL can cause to the spectrum in general and government users in particular. Initial readings of this report indicate that most or all of the BPL systems examined, in essence, can not function as promised while not causing significant interference problems. However, this information is buried in dull technical detail within the report, whereas the "executive summary" of the report appears to praise BPL while downplaying or ignoring the problems uncovered.

The ARRL requested that the FCC extend the May 3rd filing deadline for comments on the BPL NPRM. The FCC has, to date, declined to do so.

On the face of it, it now appears more than ever that actual decision(s) on BPL regulations (or relief of or lack thereof) has already been made, and that the FCC is now going through the regulatory required motions to give the appearance of an impartial and balanced decision making process. Although the FCC, FEMA, and NTIA are supposed to be independent agencies, when the orders come down from the White House, they are now falling into line (especially in view of FEMA's down playing of their original concerns with BPL, as noted last month). And with this being an election year, and with the current administration concerned with being re-elected, one has to wonder if the proponents of BPL have arranged for a quid-pro-quo to the effect of "give us BPL & we'll aid your re-election campaign." The process shows signs of being tainted. And HF users, especially Amateur Radio operators, will pay the price while BPL systems attempt to rake in the cash.

The FCC forum at Dayton this year could be interesting. If they dare to have one.

— Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor

Top of the Hill



Plans are well underway for Field Day at the Library Sportsmen's Club again this year. They couldn't be more helpful to us. Ted Huf, W4ZE will share many specifics of the FD weekend at our next meeting on May 13th. FD is always a wonderful event and I hope all of you are looking forward to it as much as I am. With FD looming less than two months away I'm reminded that we still need a volunteer to replace Kevin,

N3KFD as our Publicity Chairman. Please give this function some serious consideration. Thank you.

Mark Stabryla, N3RDV will be chairing this month's meeting since several of our members including me are attending The Dayton Hamvention. This is the annual Ham's rite of Spring and as many have said before me, every ham should attend Dayton at least once. It's quite a spectacle!

Larry, K3VX and I and perhaps others are looking forward to the first annual Mid Atlantic QSO Party to be held on May 8th and 9th. We'll be at Ryerson Station State Park in Greene County. Please stop in and join us or get on the air from home. The object of the event is to work as many counties as possible in the six participating Mid Atlantic states. If you like the PA QSO Party you should love this one.

Also on May 8th is the second monthly open house at Steel City ARC. This month's theme is contesting. Let's try to support this fine effort. That's all for now- See you on the radio.

— 73, Bill Hill W3WH, President
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/B

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Next Meeting: May 13th, 2004

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, May 13th, 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, led by Ted Huf W4ZE. (Additional information was not available at deadline)

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test July 15th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 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)

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

April 24th was a beautiful morning for the **WASH Breakfast Gang** to get together at the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall. Unfortunately, Ye Editor slept through his alarm, so we have no report as of deadline for who was there or what was going on. Sorry about that! Hopefully we'll have that information to "fill in" next month. In any event, the next Club Breakfast will be at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, on May 29th, with a return to the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, on June 26th. See you there!

Meeting Minutes: As of deadline, the April club meeting minutes have not arrived. Someone please make sure that the "usual resolution" to waive the reading... not happen! (Sorry about that too... it's been one of those months)

The Breezeshooters Hamfest is now a touch over a month away. Do you believe it's their Fiftieth? What a milestone to reach, especially nowadays. Congratulations are in order!

The Sixth Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest will take place as has become our tradition. The usual announcement is on Page 10. Hope to see you all there! But remember, and this is important, this is a "private" picnic for club members, their families, and invited guests. 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.

Congratulations to Jack Carlson N3FZ of Bethel Park. He received recently a QSL card from a Russian ham (of course, Ye Editor can't remember the call to save his life). What's unusual about that? It's for a 432 MHz EME QSO! Jack has an interesting moonbounce setup, as he does not have "az-el" antenna rotors, so he can only work the moon at certain times of the day when it lines up with his antennas. Way to go! (Now if we can just get Jack to take an occasional night off from the Port Authority and make it to a meeting...)

QRZ The Space Station: Speaking of the things beyond the atmosphere, how would you like to get involved in a school-related ARISS demonstration with the International Space Station? Many of you may remember Pat Palazzolo ex-KA3WZP, a teacher at Upper St. Clair High School and a one-time participant in the NASA Teacher In Space program. She was recently contacted by NASA to set up an ARISS demo with a Pittsburgh area school, at the request of Astronaut Mike Fincke, a Pittsburgh native. And since someone at Mission Control is a USC graduate... Pat has requested help from **WASH** in getting the paperwork filed, the equipment set up, and the publicity arranged. And unlike the SAREX contacts she was involved with 10 years ago for the Space Shuttle, since this is a "crew pick" it's basically a guarantee that the contact will be authorized. In any event, while more information will be forthcoming in the next few months (Mike will be on board through sometime in the Fall), if you're interested in getting involved, please contact WN3VAW through the usual channels. Those of you with satellite experience will be especially welcome! (And yes, we are going to help Pat get her ticket back!)

Small world: Incidentally, Pat mentioned that one of the people helping and encouraging her (both with this event and in the past) was the director of her local cable TV station, Glenn Ward N3EKN. Turns out that Glenn is the son of Seth Ward KC3YE (SK), who was a good friend of Ye Editor's back when he was involved with the Steel City club. And Pat was one of Ye Editor's Novice class students back at CCAC way back when. You never know...

Kid's Day: The semi-annual ARRL Kid's Day event for the summer is scheduled for June 19th, fitting in between the ARRL VHF Contest and Field Day weekends. Interested in participating? Check the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org for more information.

2003 ARRL Sweepstakes results are out. In the CW contest, Bill W3WH finished in 1st Place the Single-Op QRP class for the entire Atlantic Division (!!!), and Larry K3VX finished 8th in the Single-Op Low Power class for the WPA Section. On the Phone side, Ted W4ZE finished 4th in the Single-Op Low Power class for the WPA section. Congratulations all!

Don't forget to send in your comments on the BPL NPRM (ET Dockets 03-104 & 04-37). Yes, things look bad, and Ye Editor (amongst others) think the whole thing is rigged. But if we don't try, we have no one to blame but ourselves. We have to at least let the BPL con artists know we're on to them!

News reports indicate that the owner of legendary Wheeling WV 50 kW AM WWVA has filed with the FCC to move the station to Stow, OH, about 30 miles south of Cleveland. A Google search shows that opposition to this proposal has already begun, with WWVA being called one of the "great treasures" of WV. No word from the FCC yet as to when they will start accepting public comments on the proposal... or even if they will act on it.

April 15th VE Test Results

We had our VE session on April 15th, 2004 at the Peter's Township Library. There were seven candidates at the session, resulting in:

One new Technician: Michael J. Finegan, Sr, KB3LAS.

One upgrade: Sam Mayberry, W3CYO passed Element 4 and is now an Extra.

And Lori Bobro, KB3GMU passed Element 3, working her way toward her General license.

Many thanks to the VEs who came out to make the session possible:

Bill W3WH, Mark N3RDV, Bob W3RJM, Chuck AB3AB, Bob KB3IN, and Ed N3ZNI from yours truly

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

New 2004 Date for North Hills ARC Hamfest

Traditionally held on the Sunday following the Fourth of July holiday, we've learned that the North Hills ARC has moved their hamfest for this year to the Sunday, August 8th.

According to Chuck Gessner KC3ET, he was told by Bill Kristoff N3BPB of the North Hills ARC that the move was necessitated by the renovations being done at present at the Northland Public Library. Presumably, the library will still be undergoing work and be unavailable on the usual July date.

No word yet as to whether or not this is a permanent change or will only be for this year.

For more information on the hamfest, send an email to aa3ta@verizon.net

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

Minutes, March 11th Meeting

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

.Bill, W3WH, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours. There were 29 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the February meeting as published in the March newsletter. The motion was made by Hank, KB3FNM, seconded by Dick, N3QMV. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark reports that we had a profitable hamfest.

Secretary (KB3FZU): No report.

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

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): The repeaters are doing OK. Now that the weather is getting better, a trip for a tune up will be scheduled.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): No report.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Carol will hold a 50/50 after the meeting. Norma Plants was the winner of the 50/50 at the hamfest and she gave more than half of the winnings back to the club. Thank You!

Public Service (N3RDV): No report.

Contests (K3VX): Larry and Bill began a discussion about Field Day – 30 people usually attend and about 15 usually operate – the question is why do some people not operate? Should we use both calls and two transmitters at each of two locations and run two class 2A stations? The big question is what would you like to do? There was some discussion on primary operators for say two hour or so windows. If there is a split, one of the stations could be in a more public place. More discussions ensued. The possibilities to help a few of the Boy Scouts of America achieve their radio merit badge as a part of Field Day festivities surfaced. It could be done at Mingo Park.

A motion to use Mingo Park as our Field Day site was made by Steve, W3SRL, seconded by Ron, WN3VAW. The motion was voted on and carried.

The Mid Atlantic QSO Party is Mothers Day weekend, May 8th & 9th. This is a brand new event. Does the club want to participate? It runs from Noon on Saturday to 5 or 6 on Sunday. Bill, W3WH, said that this is an open topic of discussion and we can continue it during the next meeting.

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): Stay tuned, lots to come.

Hamfest: Paid admission was up – table sales were in the same ball park as last year and overall it was a successful event. Thank You to everyone who helped with this success.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Steve Motioned that the club set aside 1/2 of this year's hamfest profit as seed money for next year's effort. Shawn, NØPEU, seconded the motion; it was voted on and carried. Breakfast is at Kings on the last Saturday of the month.

The monthly Open House at the Steel City ARC will be on a Friday or Saturday every month beginning in April. Bob, W3RJM, will keep us posted.

Good of the Order: VKØIR DXpedition tape was presented after the meeting courtesy of Bob, W3RJM.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Bob, W3RJM, and seconded by Ron, WN3VAW. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:05.

Silent Keys



Our condolences to Paul Lusardi NØVLR and Annette Lusardi NØWPV on the recent loss of their unborn child.

WASH Spotlight



From the Archives: Changing batteries at **WASH** Field Day 2001.

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2001, 2004 Dave Imhoff W3HND.

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

Saturday, May 29th & June 26th

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 May at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, and in June at the **Your Way Café**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads, Whitehall. Start time is about 8 AM until whenever.

Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not! See you there!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--|
| AA3FI | 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 | NØVPV | 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 | KB3IJC | N3CFZ | 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 | N8DPV | | (2000 and earlier members no longer displayed) |
| KB3DCO | KD3JV | N3RHT | W3GEL | | |
| KB3EPI | KE3XB | N3RNX | W3HND | | |
| KB3ERQ | | | | | |
| KB3FNM | | | | | |
| KB3FZU | | | | | |

Through April 9th, 2004

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Report on the Penn Yan, NY BPL Trial

Dave Hallidy K2DH courtesy of Brian Carling AF4K and Tom Jennings KV2X

I visited Penn Yan, NY again last night (Tuesday, April 20th), at the invitation of the Yates Amateur Radio Club. It was their monthly meeting, and the topic was the BPL trial currently being run in the city of Penn Yan.

The primary speaker was Rick Ayers KB2DMK, a Penn Yan local who had been involved in the testing, both pre- and post-deployment, to measure any interference. Rick's report of his findings will be available later, possibly as early as late today. Also speaking at the meeting were Dave Simmons KB2ITN (the ham who was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* article on March 23rd as being satisfied that there was no problem with interference in Penn Yan), and a representative of DVI- Data Ventures Inc (the service provider in Penn Yan) named John Loew (or Low, or Lowe — he never gave me his card or spelled his name). John's responsibility at DVI is business development, he is not a technical person.

When my wife and I got to Penn Yan, we had the receiver on in the truck, and could, as we expected, detect the BPL interference just as it had been on my previous visit- over S9 on 24.9MHz as I drove to the meeting location (a church near the trial area).

It should be noted here that Simmons and Loew arrived at the meeting at least 20 minutes late, together, and came in during Ayers presentation.

Ayers explained how he measured the interference, how he had gone to Allentown, PA (unannounced) to measure it there and get a comparison to the levels seen in Penn Yan, and that, after all his work was completed, he concluded that there was a serious interference problem in Penn Yan. Rick was asked questions by a number of the members present, and did his best to answer them all. He then turned the meeting over to Loew and Simmons, who basically stated that they were

confident that the new "notching technique" from Amperion would solve all of the interference issues. Several people asked them questions, including me — I asked Loew why there was no experimental license for the Penn Yan trial, and he said he had been concerned about that, but that it was an Amperion question — I agreed. I also asked if the Amperion boxes had Part 15 compliance stickers on them, and if so, where they were located. Loew and Simmons replied that they thought so, but weren't sure where they would be, probably on the inside. I reminded them that FCC states that the stickers must be in a "conspicuous location" and that inside the box wasn't such a location. Loew stated that the people should not be concerned, they (DVI) were committed to an interference-free system in Penn Yan.

He was then asked what people could do if they felt they needed to complain to DVI about interference so that it could get taken care of. His reply was, "You can call the Operations Center." When asked for the phone number, he replied, "I don't have it- call me instead." and GAVE US HIS CELL PHONE NUMBER! I asked him how the company expected to make any money supplying this service to the rural customers (there were a number of people from well outside the city present), and his reply was "WE NEVER STATED THAT WE WOULD BE SUPPLYING BPL TO THE FARMERS SPREAD MILES APART- WE'RE DEPLOYING THE SERVICE IN SMALL CITIES AND TOWNS." I then reminded him of FCC Chairman Powell's statement when the NPRM was released "I am optimistic and welcome the day when every electrical outlet will have the potential to offer high-speed broadband and a plethora of high-tech applications to all Americans." His comment was (this is beautiful!) "I read Chairman Powell's statements every day- he never said that."

Several members then started asking me questions (they had been to our club's website and heard the recording there), and I did my best to answer them. My main point in being there was to make sure that these people, if they had experienced interference, would lodge complaints to the FCC, and to make sure that they understood the importance of commenting on the NPRM. So my thrust was there. But I did offer to let anyone who hadn't heard the interference yet, come out to my truck after the meeting and I'd give them a demo.

At this point, the topic had been pretty well covered, so the meeting officially ended. I asked for their business cards, Simmons gave me his, but Loew "Didn't have any." I gave them mine. Simmons and Loew got up to leave, but Simmons was cornered by several members who wanted to ask more questions. Loew quietly slipped out the door. Ayers and I answered a few more questions, then it was time to go.

We went outside and those that were left wanted to see my mobile setup and hear the interference. Guess what? IT WAS GONE!!! THE SYSTEM HAD BEEN SHUT DOWN, either in the time before Simmons and Loew got to the meeting (maybe why they were late), or when Loew slipped out the door at the end.

(Penn Yan Continued on page 6)

Bush & BPL: The Speech Excerpts

Peter Dougherty W2IRT (from his April 27th e-mail to the Ten Tec reflector)

I saw the following on Usenet this morning, and hoped it was a hoax or a troll, but a quick visit to the [whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) Web page confirmed it. Bush has personally thrown his backing behind BPL technology in a speech he delivered yesterday (Monday, April 26th), and supports an accelerated rollout of all forms of broadband by 2007 nationwide.

The relevant paragraphs from the broad-ranging speech are as follows (edited for space). I think we may have seen the very last sunspot cycle with good DX on HF. Thanks, Mr. President. I think there are 600,000 U.S. hams who'll just love to think of this speech in November.

The full speech is somewhat lengthy and can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040426-6.html>. The BPL comments are towards the very end.

"Now, the use of broadband has tripled since 2000 from 7 million subscriber lines to 24 million. That's good. But that's way short of the goal for 2007. And so -- by the way, we rank 10th amongst the industrialized world in broadband technology and its availability. That's not good enough for America. Tenth is 10 spots too low as far as I'm concerned. (Applause.)"

[W2IRT note: Does he want us to be ranked 0th? I think his math is as messed up as his grammar. It's that fuzzy math at work, I think.]

"Broadband technology must be affordable. In order to make sure it gets spread to all corners of the country, it must be affordable. We must not tax broadband access. If you want broadband access throughout the society, Congress must ban taxes on access. (Applause.)"

"Secondly, a proper role for the government is to clear regulatory hurdles so those who are going to make investments do so. Broadband is going to spread because it's going to make sense for private sector companies to spread it so long as the regulatory burden is reduced -- in other words, so long as policy at the government level encourages people to invest, not discourages investment."

"And so here are some smart things to do: One, increase access to federal land for fiber optic cables and transmission towers. That makes sense. As you're trying to get broadband spread throughout the company, make sure it's easy to build across federal lands. One sure way to hold things up is that the federal lands say, you can't build on us. So how is some guy in remote Wyoming going to get any broadband technology? Regulatory policy has got to be wise and smart as we encourage the spread of this important technology. There needs to be technical standards to make possible new broadband technologies, such as the use of high-speed communication directly over power lines. Power lines were for electricity; power lines can be used for broadband technology. So the technical standards need to be changed to encourage that."

<snip>

"And we're going to continue to support the Federal Communications Commission. Michael Powell — Chairman Michael Powell, under his leadership, his decision to eliminate burdensome regulations on new broadband networks availability to homes. In other words, clearing out the underbrush of regulation, and we'll get the spread of broadband technology, and America will be better for it. (Applause.)"

NC Utility Draws "A Line In The Sand"

An electric utility testing broadband over power line (BPL) systems in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area has drawn a virtual line in the sand on how far it plans to go to mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. Responding to the FCC about BPL interference complaints from hams, Progress Energy Corp (PEC) told the FCC that his company has eliminated any harmful interference from its BPL trial site and now complies with FCC rules.

"It is PEC's position and interpretation of the FCC's rules with regard to 'harmful interference' that any interference that may still exist is not 'harmful' as that term is defined by the FCC's rules," Len Anthony, PEC's attorney for regulatory affairs, told James Burtle, chief of the FCC's Experimental License Branch. "This level of interference does not seriously degrade ham radio operation or transmissions or cause repeated interruptions." Some, but not all, of PEC's BPL field trials are covered by an FCC Part 5 experimental license.

The FCC defines as "harmful" any interference that "seriously degrades,

(*"Line In The Sand"* Continued on page 9)

Gaithersburg 'fest Is Back!

Dan Blasber KA8YPY courtesy of Chuck Reville K3FT

As most of you know, FAR and the Columbia Amateur Radio Association used to do a hamfest called "Fall-Fest" at the Howard County fairgrounds for the last two years but, due to a scheduling error, the Howard County site was booked for the wrong weekend this year. Faced with the need to come up with a new date, a new place, or both, a number of ideas were considered but none of them were agreeable to both organizations. Therefore, it was decided to cancel the "Fall-Fest" and for each organization to pursue its own respective hamfests, if they felt they could do so.

Many of you have asked FAR when it would return to Gaithersburg, or even if there was a plan to return. I am very happy to say the answer is that after a five-year absence, the hamfest will return to the location where it started 47 years ago.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio announced at its April meeting the return of The Foundation for Amateur Radio Hamfest -- FARFest -- to Gaithersburg, Maryland, on September 11 and 12, 2004. FARFest will be held at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, the Gaithersburg fairgrounds.

Also at FARFest, FAR will be sponsoring the ARRL Maryland-DC Convention on both days.

It is true FARFest will be sharing the fairgrounds with another event, but we anticipate being able to accommodate all those who would like to be a vendor or to tailgate at the hamfest.

More information at <http://www.amateurradio-far.org/F.A.R.Fest.htm>

Psalms of the DX'er

Psalms 20:11 "Real men don't eat quiche and they don't eat a mike."

Psalms 11:23 "At the bottom of the solar cycle, even an EA or DL is DX"

Psalms 14:28 "He who doth not understand 'UP' shall wander in the desert"

Psalms 12:76 "He who doth not hear 'DX' shall calleth not!"

Psalms 32:15 "Blessed be the 'DX' that QSL's, for his CALL shall be immortal"

Psalms 17:37 "Thou shalt give thy full call, and keep it wholly."

Psalms 45:55 "Thy ground rod and thy tower, they comfort me..."

Psalms 17:12 "Praise be he who useth the Dummy Load, for his grace shall be known throughout the land".

Psalms 45:65 "He maketh me to call on frequencies clear..."

Psalms 23:89 "And the weak shall be strong when conditions be'ith mighty"

Psalms 23:90 "And the already strong shall 'rocketh' thy rig!"

Psalms 12:13 "And the Blasphemer who QSL'th not, shall wasteth and wander the Valley of LIDifites."

Psalms 17:17 "Blessed be the patient, because they'll shall see the arrival of the DX QSL's"

Psalms 17:18 "Blessed be the QRP's, because they maketh not QRM!"

Psalms 17:19 "Blessed be SWL's, because they always send QSL first".

— Courtesy of Bill Heinzinger W9OL; includes contributions attributed to KQ6VQ & CT1EAT

(Penn Yan Continued from page 5)

Everything was gone, completely. Interestingly, this explains why I got an email from a ham who went to Penn Yan last Saturday (4/17) and found nothing, yet another person (this one from Harris Corp) was there on the same day and heard everything just as I had reported it. I think this action speaks even louder than the interference about just what is going on here, and does not present the BPL providers in a positive light at all.

I was able to convince several people to lodge formal complaints to the FCC about the interference they had experienced, and I believe they will.

I'm sure there's more to come from this.

How To Pack & Move...

Portions by W. Bradford Swift D. V. M.

From the US Postal Service MoversNet web site at <http://www.usps.com/moversnet/howtopacka2.html> suggested by Ray Owen's Joke A Day

If pets are a part of your family, remember that moving, whether down the block or across the country, is just as stressful for them as it is for you. But this stress can be greatly reduced with good planning and the tips that you'll find here on **MoversNet**.

"Animals can sense and react to stress just like people," says Dr. William Fortney, a veterinarian at Kansas State University. "Anything we can do to make it easier on them can make recovering from the move easier on us." Here are some suggestions from top veterinarians, zoo experts and experienced pet owners on how to minimize the stress of moving with pets. Read the general guidelines, then check out the specific pets that make up your family's menagerie.

Hippos

You'll need:

- 1,000-gallon tank per hippo
- 1,000 gallons of water
- Crane
- 1-pound sedative
- Soothing hippo music
- 2 Aspirin (for you)

How to pack:

1. Fill your tank with 800 gallons of water. Start yesterday. Remember, a medium-sized hippo takes up at least 200 gallons. (Just out of curiosity, why do you have a hippo, anyway?)
2. Apply sedative. Take two Aspirin.
3. Hold it, hold it - put the hippo in the tank, first. Start with soothing hippo music, followed by a large winch and crane.
4. Now go relax in a hot bath before the forklift arrives.

WAIVER: We in no way advocate moving a hippo or any animal without the express advice and consent of your local vet or zoo keeper. If you'd like advice from a veterinarian on moving with pets go to <http://www.usps.com/moversnet/pets2.html>

Pet Rocks

Probably the only pet easier to move than a turtle. Be careful to not let your pet rock out of its box while you are driving the car. It's simply too easy for them to cause an accident by slipping under your gas or brake pedal.

Gorillas (How NOT To Move One)

On October 16th, 1996, travel plans for the people on Delta Flight 709 were delayed when one of the passengers became upset during a stopover in Salt Lake City. The passenger, a 490-pound gorilla, named Vip, had been traveling for over 12 hours in the cargo hold. Having endured a stopover in Cincinnati and a change of planes in Salt Lake City on his way from Boston to his new home in Seattle, Vip expressed his exasperation by rattling his reinforced aluminum cage, resulting in a "rather loud" noise.

"It just turned into a long day," said Brian Rutledge of Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, where Vip had lived. "And when you weigh 490 pounds, you can let people know you've had enough." He was unloaded in Salt Lake City where he spent the night in Hogle Zoo before continuing on to Seattle on the ground.

(Editor's Note: Strictly speaking, this doesn't have much to do with amateur radio, but with all the bad BPL related news, I figured we needed a smile!)

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

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks NØPEU for providing the new site!

Rules, First Mid-Atlantic QSO Party



OBJECT: To contact as many stations in the Mid-Atlantic States of Delaware, Maryland-DC, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia in as many Counties within these States as possible.

DATE: May 8-9, 2004.

CONTEST PERIOD: 1600 UTC Saturday until 2400 UTC Sunday. (12 noon EST Saturday until 8 P.M. EST Sunday)

BANDS: All MF/HF bands (except WARC bands) and 50, 144, 222, and 440 MHz. No cross-mode/cross-band/net/repeater contacts permitted.

MODES: SSB/FM and CW only.

CATEGORIES: SINGLE OPERATOR, (one operator only) - QRP (up to 5W output power), STANDARD POWER (5W – 200W output power), MULTI-OPERATOR (*includes Clubs*), MOBILE (One operator call used. Operators in same vehicle may NOT work each other for contest credit.) Maximum output power is limited to 200 watts for all categories, except QRP.

CONTEST EXCHANGE: Stations Within Mid-Atlantic States - Send serial number plus QTH group. QTH group consists of 5 characters where the first 3 are the county and the last 2 are the state. Stations Outside Mid-Atlantic States - Send an exchange consisting of a serial number and the QTH group composed of either the 2 character U.S. state identifier, or the 2 or 3-character Canadian province/territory identifier, as applicable. DX Stations will send a serial number and 'DX' as their location identifier. Puerto Rico, U. S. Virgin Islands, are DX. **ALL STATIONS MUST USE the QTH Group shown in the MAQP list or the QSO will be deleted and considered a BUSTED QSO.**

WHO WORKS WHO?: Stations in Mid-Atlantic states work any station, anywhere, for points. Stations outside the Mid-Atlantic states region work only stations in Mid-Atlantic states for points.

Mobile stations can be worked again, for points **and multipliers**, as they activate new Counties. **Multiplier logging/scoring must meet the criteria stated within the MULTIPLIERS section of the Rules.** A mobile station is defined as one that can be operated while in motion, is fully independent of external sources of power, and does not utilize any antennas not attached to the vehicle.

Portable/'rover' stations are considered fixed stations for scoring purposes.

Serial numbers shall start with 1 and increase sequentially in increments of 1. No penalty will be assessed for non-sequential or duplicated serial numbers. Mobile stations are allowed to maintain a continuous sequence of serial numbers for all contacts, or may begin with serial number 001 for each separate County they activate.

QSO POINTS: Phone - one point, CW - two points, Mobile - three points, regardless of mode. All stations worked count for contact points. The 3-points for working a mobile station are credited to the station that CONTACTS the mobile.

MULTIPLIERS: Multipliers can be counted for credit ONLY once. For DX multiplier scoring purposes, multiplier credit will only be earned for the first DX contact worked, however, each succeeding DX station worked will count for contact points. Multiplier lists for U. S. States, Canadian (VE) multipliers along with MAQP County check-off sheets are provided within these rules.

Stations within the Mid-Atlantic region - All U. S. States, Canadian Provinces & Territories, any one DX country, and each County within the Mid-Atlantic States of DE, MD, PA, NJ, NY, VA, and WV count as multipliers. Washington, D.C. and Baltimore City count as valid multipliers for Maryland.

Stations outside of the Mid-Atlantic States - Only the Counties within the Mid-Atlantic States of DE, MD, PA, NJ, NY, VA, and WV count as multipliers. Washington, D.C. and Baltimore City are valid multipliers for Maryland.

SCORING: Final total score is total QSO points multiplied by the total number of multipliers worked.

SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES: Suggest starting 50 kHz up from the bottom of the band, or band-segment, within which the chosen mode is permitted. Take care to avoid those frequencies which are normally devoted to specific purposes (e.g. SSTV, digital, scheduled nets, etc.) While no amateur 'owns' the right to use any frequency, there are modes/operations that have a LONG history of use of a frequency. Attempt to foster 'good neighbor' relations by maintaining a sufficient frequency spacing interval when operating near the edges of their traditionally known and operated frequency ranges.

LOGS/SUBMITTAL/REPORTING: LOGS - ALL log formats, regardless of

category, shall show date, time (UTC), band, mode, callsign of station worked, and full exchange sent AND received. Multipliers shall be clearly marked. All stations must submit the required overall summary sheet with each entry. This summary sheet shall show a summary list of all multipliers worked. **MOBILES MUST BE LOGGED AS '/M' in order to be counted as 3-point contacts!**

SUBMITTALS - Logs submission deadline is **June 10, 2004**. ELECTRONIC submission of logs is **PREFERRED** using either the CABRILLO format, or a comma-delimited ASCII file format. Electronic submittals shall be sent as an attachment to the EMAIL address provided on the website or via a floppy disk mailed to the MAQP address.

If submitted via EMAIL, the **SUBJECT** line shall contain the submitting station's callsign with the words '2004 MAQP LOG' and the attached file name will contain the appropriate callsign. ONLY 3.5" disks are acceptable. If a disk is mailed, the title '2004 MAQP' and the entrant's callsign shall be written on the disk. Summary sheets shall be produced using MS WORD 6.0 or greater (or any format that can be imported into AND read by MS Word 6.0 or greater) and included with the submittal EMAIL or disk.

Submittal of LEGIBLE hardcopy (printed) logs is permitted as long as they follow the format noted under **LOGS/SUBMITTAL/REPORTING**. If, in the judgement of MAQP Committee, a logged QSO entry is unreadable, it shall be deleted without any additional penalty being imposed. Score shall be recomputed after any deletions are made.

ADDITIONAL NOTES - Stations may be worked only once, per mode, per band. No methods using cross-mode, cross-band, net, or any form of relay (repeater, digipeater, satellite, etc.) shall be used for contacts. CW contacts shall not be made in the phone band segments.

A '**BUSTED**' QSO is defined as a QSO where any part of the exchange entered is incorrectly logged. A **NIL** ('Not In Log') QSO is defined as a QSO where one log shows that a station was logged as being worked but the other corresponding entrant's log does not show the QSO as having been logged.

If a log is found to contain either a 'BUSTED' or a 'NIL' QSO then that QSO will be deducted, without additional penalty, (subject to the greater-than-5% rule) prior to any final scoring being made for that log. Score shall be recomputed after any deletions are made.

If a log shows a TOTAL BUSTED/NIL quantity of QSO's GREATER than five percent (5%) of the TOTAL QSO's submitted, then a penalty of deducting an additional QSO for each BUSTED/NIL QSO will be applied to the aggregate total of BUSTED/NIL QSO's found in the entrant's log. Score shall be recomputed after any deletions are made.

Logs may contain duplicate QSO's. No penalty will be incurred and duplicate QSO's will not affect score computation. No points will be given for duplicate QSO's.

ENTRY SUBMITTAL NOTES - EMAIL date/USPS postmark date will determine 'postmark' for the purposes of inclusion into the MAQP results. MAQP SHALL NOT be responsible for problems causing an entry to be misplaced, misrouted, delayed, or lost via any means. Mailed logs must be postmarked by the **June 10, 2004** deadline in order to be included for judging in the MAQP AND also to be considered for awards. The decisions of the MAQP Committee are final.

All stations that enter in the Multi-operator/Mobile category shall include a complete list of names/calls of all participants who operated with them.

All submitted materials, regardless of method submitted, become the property of the MAQP Committee and will not be returned.

AWARDS: Stations within the Mid-Atlantic region - Certificates will be awarded to the top scorer in each category in each of the Mid-Atlantic States. Stations outside of the Mid-Atlantic region - Certificates will be awarded to the top scorer in each U.S. State, Canadian province, and DXCC country for each category for which a valid entry is received. Worked all Counties - Any station, which succeeds in working every County in ANY Mid-Atlantic State, will receive a certificate. Plaques - A number of special plaques will also be awarded to top scorers.

(Mid-Atlantic QSO Party Rules Continued from page 7)

MORE INFORMATION: The Mid-Atlantic QSO Party Web site is at <http://www.qsl.net/maqso>. Check there for information on MAQP activity, contest software information, County abbreviations, contact information, and other useful information. MAQP results will be posted on the web site when they are complete. A listing of 'logs received' will be posted to the website.

SOFTWARE: See the MAQP website for locations of various suppliers of logging software.

DISQUALIFICATION (DQ): Entries that, in the judgement of the MAQP Committee, exhibit evidence of attempting to improperly inflate, 'game', or change the submittal shall be considered as being liable for consideration as either a 'checklog' (invalid for consideration for awards) OR DQ. Such stations will be listed at the end of the MAQP results with a note of 'checklog' or 'DQ' as warranted by the decision of the MAQP Committee. Stations whose entries that are being considered for DQ action MAY be contacted for clarification, but this is at the sole discretion of the MAQP Committee.

Stations who are DQ shall be ineligible to submit any logs for the MAQP immediately following the one for which their entry was DQ.

All decisions of the MAQP Committee are FINAL.

CONTACT INFORMATION: To contact the MAQP, via email, please select the following EMAIL address which meets your needs:

GENERAL INFO: generalmaq@yahoo.com

LOGS: maqlogs@yahoo.com

FEEDBACK: feedback@yahoo.com

'SNAIL MAIL' --To contact the MAQP via U.S. mail, write to:

Mid-Atlantic QSO Party (MAQP)
Attn: Chuck Reville K3FT
6400 Baltimore National Pike 131
Baltimore, MD. 21228

MAQP website URL - <http://www.qsl.net/maqso/index.html>

SPONSORED BY: The Independent Mid-Atlantic QSO Party Committee

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 "2nd 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



FYI Networks, an Internet Service Provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of WASH their Basic Internet account for only \$18 / month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet and FTP access. Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI-4NET, or

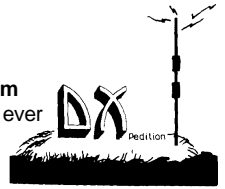
e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. You must mention that you are a member of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS to get the discount rate.

FYI Networks now also provides sDSL service in selected areas. WASH Members can get DSL for the discounted rate of only \$47.50/month. A pre-qualification must be done to see if your address is in the DSL coverage area.

Call John Vasicek at 412-488-7800 for more information about FYI sDSL services & benefits.

Many thanks to FYI Networks for making these special offers available to us for the past seven years!

DX News Briefs



"The program for the **2004 Dayton HamVention DX Forum** program has been finalized, as much as anything in DXing ever gets finalized. We should have another good program this year with something of interest to every DXer. If you will be at the HamVention, mark Saturday, 15 May from 1230 - 1515 for the DX Forum. It is scheduled for room 4 in Hara Arena. The program is as follows:

- 1) A special program on DXpeditioning in the 1960's. Last year the SW Ohio DX Association was given access to some 16 mm film of the first (1965) San Felix operation, **CEØXA**, as well as a VHS tape of converted 8mm films for the same operation as well as the **KS4FW**, Serrana Bank, and **HKØAB**, Bajo Nuevo, 1962 expedition. Even as this is being promulgated, work is being done to prepare an historical presentation on these operations. In the interest of time, we will probably only show the CEØXA portion at Dayton.
- 2) 35 Plus Years of DXing from Central and South America by Dr. Rick Dorsch, NE8Z, **HC2MC**, etc. You may have read the recent article in World Radio Magazine by Rick. He will have time to expand upon the subject and provide more data at the DX Forum.
- 3) Ham Radio in Iraq a la 2004 by Fred Matos, W3ICM, **YI3DX**. Until last month Fred was Director, Spectrum Management, Coalition Provisional Authority Ministry of Communications in Iraq. Part of his role there was issuing amateur licenses.
- 4) The **3B9C** Story by one of the team members, Ivan Davies, G3IZD. If you are following recent activities, you know this operation was completed only a few weeks ago. It is my understanding that HamVention will be the first venue for the after action show. Be among the first to see the pics and hear about 3B9C from those who made it happen.
- 5) DXCC announcements and updates by Wayne Mills, N7NG. Wayne will bring us the latest info on the DXCC program from ARRL HQ." — K4ZLE, Moderator 2004 HamVention DX Forum

"Have not seen much about it, but Wayne Mills of the ARRL announced at the Visalia DX Convention that effective Monday, May 3rd, **Logbook of the World** will open its award link to your DXCC records. You will be able to see all your entity credits, it will tell you what in LOTW you need and you can request credits. Also Wayne said LOTW will be available for use by other organizations and said there has been contact on this with RSGB and CQ" — K16T

"The **IRC/GS required chart** <http://www.qsl.net/w9ol/ircchart.txt> has been updated. Updated information from hams in the country they are reporting for is welcome and requested." — W9OL

A listing of countries currently without incoming QSL bureaus can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qslout.html> at the bottom of the page — N7XY

There are two different managers for **T49C**. K8SIX is handling the 2004 operation; SM5KCO handles only the 1997 operation. — K8SIX

QSL **FM/T93M** via DJ2MX. Requests sent to Sarajevo will be forwarded, but obviously that will entail some delays — T93Y

A free trip to **VP5** is available to a young ham for the 2004 CQ WW SSB contest. More information at <http://www.contesting.com/articles/495> — WA4PGM

QSL Routes

3CØV via DJ9ZB — W9OL
4U1UN via HB9BOU — W2IRT
4V2ØØYH via DL7CM — WR3Y
5H9PD via W8FV — KS4YT
5WØKE via DL2MDZ — DL2MDZ
5WØSS via DL2MDZ — DL2MDZ
9M6NA via JE1JKL — IK4FNF
EP2MKO via RU6FZ — W9OL
ET3AA via G3VMW — K8QM
JY8B via DL5MBY — IK4FNF
P49MR via VE3MR — WD9EWK
S9SS via N4JR — KS4YT
SU9NC via OM2SA — KS4YT
T31MY via OM2SA — KC5YKX
TF3CW via LX1NO — WR3Y
TO4E via F5OGL — KA2MGE
V25DX via KU9C — W9OL
V26EW & V26G via N2ED — RA3SL
V31DJ via W1LLU — KC5YKX
V47KP via K2SB — IK4FNF
V5/JD1BLK via JM1LJS — WR3Y
V73MJ via JF1NZW — WR3Y
VP2E via N5AU — WØMM
VP5K via K9QVB — K5WW
VP5NN via W6XK — KC5YKX
XT2OP via VE4JOP — W4YCH
YA1D via JG1OWV — K5AQ
YR7M via YO3CTK — YO3CTK
ZD8Z via VE3HO — WØMM
ZK3MW via DJ7RJ — W4YCH

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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("Line In The Sand" Continued from page 5)

obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations."

Anthony claimed that since PEC can modify its Amperion BPL system to totally eliminate interference to fixed stations, "the only impact of any kind upon ham operations is upon mobile operators." PEC concluded that since BPL interference to mobiles would be "very short lived," the company is not causing harmful interference and is in "full compliance" with FCC Part 15 rules.

ARRL North Carolina Public Information Officer Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, suggests PEC has a bit more work to do. He is among local amateurs closely monitoring BPL deployment in the test zones and cooperating with PEC and Amperion to work out any interference issues. Pearce says interference remains on the top end of 20 meters in an overhead-line field trial neighborhood where PEC recently had tweaked its system.

"Nothing had changed," he told ARRL after visiting the neighborhood in the wake of Anthony's e-mail. "They were still covering up the top end of the 20-meter band." Interference to 17 and 12 meters had been notched out, but beyond that, BPL interference persisted from 14.290 to nearly 17 MHz, he said, and "fringe" carriers still encroached some 100 kHz into the bottom of 15 meters. Interference had not been mitigated at all in neighborhoods with underground power service, he said.

Progress Energy has been operating its "Phase II" trial in three neighborhoods south of Raleigh since early January. The area, in Wake County, is largely rural or lightly settled.

No hams live in the underground-wired neighborhood, so none complained, Pearce said. The handful of BPL interference complaints eventually lodged

FCC News

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

Newington, CT, April 17th —The FCC has adopted a somewhat limited version of its earlier proposal to permit deployment of RF Identification (RFID) tags in a segment of the 70-cm band at much greater duty cycles than current Part 15 rules permit for such devices and at higher field strengths. Among other applications, RFID tags are used to track shipments and packing containers. A Third Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 01-278 (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-98A1.doc) released this week follows a 2000 petition by SAVI Technology to revise FCC Part 15 rules to accommodate such devices in the vicinity of 433 MHz. The ARRL has consistently opposed the proposal, but FCC just as unflinchingly has tried to accommodate it. FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Chief Ed Thomas said RFIDs provide important public benefits.



"This item is designed to increase homeland security at ports, rail yards and warehouses," Thomas told the FCC open meeting. "It will foster the development of more powerful and advanced RFID systems that can identify the contents of shipping containers and determine whether tampering has occurred during shipment." Thomas said the devices also would increase efficiency in shipping operations and inventory control.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said SAVI has been raising the issue of homeland security in association with this proceeding for several months now. "This is the first time the FCC has acknowledged the argument," Imlay said, "but it helps the Commission justify the complete abandonment of its periodic radiator rules, and helps justify its abandonment of its custodial role of a natural resource."

In requesting Commission adoption, OET's Hugh van Tuyl provided the broad strokes of the Part 15 rule changes, which, he said, would apply specifically to commercial shipping containers "in commercial and industrial areas." In certain cases, he asserted, current Part 15 requirements aimed at preventing interference to licensed services "may unnecessarily constrain the operational range of RFID systems as well as the speed and quantity of data that can be transmitted."

The Third R&O not only would increase the maximum radiated field strength permitted for such devices but their maximum permissible transmission period as well — from one second to one minute. "While the maximum [emission] level would be greater than currently allowed," van Tuyl said, "it would still be only one-half of the level permitted for devices such as garage door openers, which also operate in this band." The longer authorized transmission period would allow an RFID to transmit the contents of an entire shipping container, he pointed out.

"We therefore believe there will be no significant increase in the potential for interference to authorized services," van Tuyl concluded.

The FCC made peace with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on the RFID tag issue. In 2002, the NTIA — citing the likelihood of interference to critical government radars — expressed "grave concerns" about the proposal to permit deployment of the RFIDs.

The Third R&O reflects certain accommodations that SAVI had offered in response to the 2002 NTIA study. It limits the operating band for such RFID tags to 433.5 to 434.5 MHz, instead of the 425 to 435 MHz SAVI originally wanted. It further would prohibit operation of RFID tag systems within 40 km (about 25 miles) of five government radar sites. Manufacturers of 433 MHz RFID systems would have to register the locations of their system base stations to assist in resolving interference complaints.

Since SAVI first approached the FCC in 2000, ARRL has maintained that the RFID tags the company proposed represented a significant source of potential interference to sensitive receivers. Operating near-continuous duty Part 15 in the vicinity of 433 MHz "is fundamentally incompatible with incumbent amateur operation," the ARRL told the FCC. More than 130 amateurs filed comments in opposition to SAVI Technology's RFID tags proposal, and most supported the ARRL's position that the proposed rules were flawed and should not be adopted.

with the FCC came from amateurs living closer to the overhead-wired neighborhood, and some were from mobile operators.

Pearce said PEC's stance regarding mobile stations "sets a new bar" in interpreting harmful interference. "Hams have never been asked to accept that level of interference before," he said, noting that mobiles driving by a power line can hear the signal for "a mile or so."

Pearce says the North Carolina hams will respond to Progress Energy and the FCC to disagree with its interpretation of "harmful interference" and its conclusion regarding interference to mobiles.

—excerpted from the ARRL Letter for April 24th
courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

50th Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 6th, 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

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 6th, 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@njdx.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.

19th Annual North Hills ARC Hamfest

New Date!

Sunday, August 8th 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



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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____ License Class: _____

City, State: _____ Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector
 I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company"

Embroidered Shirts and Hats

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

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

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

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

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

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

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

Inside This Issue:

- More BPL News... and none of it's good
- Gaithersburg Hamfest Is Back!
- North Hills Hamfest Changes Date!
- How to Pack...
- You did file your BPL NPRM comments, didn't you?

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



So *THAT'S* What the Plaques Look Like!

...and you should have seen them before we had to reduce them in size to make them fit (of course, they have been forwarded to the club web site to be seen in all their original glory!

WASH has been sponsoring the WPA Single-OP QRO plaque for several years now, but it sure was nice to see it, along side the unexpected plaque this year to the NP2SH team for the DX Division!

Plaque photos courtesy Chuck McMullen K3CM, Chairman, 2003 Pennsylvania QSO Party, and are ©Copyright 2004 The Nittany Amateur Radio Club www.nittany-arc.net (new web address)

The WASHRag

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



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B
www.washarc.org