



WASHRAG™

Volume 6 Issue 12

December 2004

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.washarc.org



N3HKQ, W3SRL New Officers

At our annual election during the November meeting, the club elected Kevin



Incoming and outgoing officers pose following the November meeting, L-R:
Kevin Smith N3HKQ, 2005 President
Frank Bobro, 2003-4 VP/Secretary
Bill Hill W3WH, 2004 President
Steve Lane W3SRL, 2005-6 VP/Secretary

Not shown:

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
2004-5

Photo courtesy of and ©2004 Dave
DeMotte N3IDH

Smith N3HKQ to serve as **WASH** President for a one year term for 2005, and Steve Lane W3SRL for Vice President/Secretary for a two year term for 2005 & 2006.

Kevin has been a member of the club for several years now, and has recently been serving as our 2 Meter Net Manager. He is very active in AMSAT and VHF activities, and was instrumental in setting up and operating our recent ARISS operation with USC High School. Kevin has also served in the past as President of WACOM (also, ironically, succeeding Bill W3WH as club President!)

Steve is one of our club's longest tenured members. In the past he served as President, Secretary, and other officers of **WASH** (back when we were still

SHARC), and is the founder and chairman of our annual hamfest, **WASHfest**.

With new officers taking over in January, we also want to wish acknowledge and thank outgoing President Bill Hill W3WH and Vice-President/Secretary Frank Bobro KB3FZU for all their time, effort and hard work over the last year. It has not gone unappreciated! The club is in fantastic shape in large part due to their leadership, and we hope they will stay active with us for a long time!



Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and
Happy New Year to All !!
From the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Next Meeting: December 9th, 2004

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, December 9th, at the **Al's Café**, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park, starting at 6:00 PM. (Please note the early start time!)

Our annual Christmas/Holiday Party will be the main event, along with installation of our 2005 Club Officers.

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

Eleventh Annual **WASH** Christmas/ Holiday Party Thursday, December 9th



The annual **WASH** Christmas/Holiday Party and December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9th at Al's Café, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park, starting at about 6:00 PM until ???.

Cost is \$15.99 per adult, \$8.00 for children 3 - 10; children under 3 are free. As always, the party is open to all **WASH** club members and their families, and friends and invited guests of the club.

If you are planning to go (we have 34 already signed up), please call me at (412) 884-1466 or let me know on the 146.955 repeater. I need to have the money by December 4th.

The menu as planned (subject to change) will feature two entrees, salad, two side dishes, and desert, and there will be a cash bar available. We will be raffling off the IC-2100H 2 Meter rig that the club won at the WACOM hamfest, there will be a Chinese auction with lots of nice prizes available), and installation of the 2005 club officers.

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

— Carol Danko KB3GMN, Ways & Means Chairman

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Wireless Association of South Hills

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

NCS Schedule
Listed On Page 3




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

**LOOKING
AHEAD:**

- ARRL Straight Key Night January 1st
- WASH 2 Meter Contest January 8th
- ARRL Kid's Day January 9th
- ARRL DX CW Contest Feb. 19th & 20th
- WASHFest February 27th
- 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest March 13th
- Dayton Hamvention , May 20th , May 21st & May 22nd



December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	2 WACOM Christmas Party RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	3 ARRL 160 M Contest Elco ARS Meeting	4 ARRL 160 M Contest SKYWarn Recognition Day RA Erie VE Test BVARA VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Holiday Dinner Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
5 ARRL 160 M Contest Ellwood City ARA Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	6 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	7 Pearl Harbor Day Butler Co ARA Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	8 North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VFHS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	9 WASH Christmas / Holiday Party Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	10	11 ARRL 10 M Contest 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
12 ARRL 10 M Contest QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	13 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	14 2 Rivers ARC VE Test Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft Venango M&K Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net	15 Steel City ARC Social Night Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	16 Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	17 Quad Co ARC Meeting	18 2 Rivers ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
19 QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	20 Steel City ARC VE Test Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	21 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft Venango M&K Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	22 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	23 Uniontown ARC Net	24	25 
26 QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	27 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	28 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	29 Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	30 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	31 	

WASH 2005 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Kevin Smith N3HKQ
VP / Secretary Steve Lane W3SRL
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 2005 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	N3RNX/R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
		Echo Link #26861 (courtesy W3SRL)	
Canonsburg	N3BV/R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH/B	28.276 MHz	

N3SHWA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)

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

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test January 13th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 13th, 2005, 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, April 21st, 2005
 (tentative) Thursday, July 21st, 2005
 Thursday, October 20th, 2005
 Thursday, January 19th, 2006

Retailers call it Black Friday... the day after Thanksgiving. The next day brought together the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington. No report on the attendance and topics were available.

The next Club Breakfast will be at the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, but one week earlier than usual, December 18th. (Somehow we don't expect a lot of people to show up for breakfast on Christmas morning... even if the restaurant would be open!). We return in January to **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington. See you there!

Maritime Mobile Update: A few issues ago, we filled you on the latest from AI KA3UPY/4 down in Florida. Here's some the latest news from his web site:

"We would like to let you know that we miss all our friends and wish you all a very HAPPY HOLLIDAY.

Michelle stayed in the condo for Jeanne. She said that the pendant lights hanging over her peninsula swayed so much, she thought they might hit each other and break. She eventually became seasick and had to go to the ground floor. This movement wasn't caused by wind but from the building swaying. We hope that she will never stay through a hurricane again. Her unit had no damage from either Francis or Jeanne.

Carol and I are still waiting for notification from the Insurance company for the damages to our unit. The adjuster said that we needed to put in a new kitchen and replace both baths. Additionally, we will be replacing much plaster and all floor coverings. Just what we need another project!!

Allen lost his cell phone to King Neptune last week. That is bad enough when you think about replacing the phone but what makes it worse is that all our phone numbers were in it. Carols' phone only has a few numbers in it. In the future, we will duplicate the numbers in both phones. If you get a chance, please email us your numbers.

We have finally settled into somewhat of a routine and are working on several projects at once. as usual. We already decided we are leaving by 5/1/05, no matter what. We didn't buy a boat to hang on the dock. We volunteered to work the Palm Beach Boat Parade, a charity event. Participants decorate their boats for the holidays and parade from outside the marina when we stay to about 10 mi. north. Judges declare the best decorated. We usually watch it from our balcony. It's pretty cool.

We want to remind all of you that you are welcome to visit. We may not be able to put you into the condo due to construction but it will be done soon we hope. You are also welcome to stay with us on the boat!"

On behalf of everyone who contributes in one way or another to this newsletter, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your support of both this newsletter and the Wireless Association of South Hills, and hope you have a joyful holiday season! We all look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the New Year... and don't forget that we have hamfest coming up in just a few weeks!

73,
ron wn3vaw,
editor



Above: What a hurricane looks like when you're sitting in a condo looking at it!
Below: Some boats weren't very lucky and didn't survive the onslaught.
 Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 AI Herrle KA3UPY



Dayton Hamvention® 2005 University of Dayton Room Reservations

Greg KQ3DX has again reserved five suites again at the University of Dayton for Dayton 2004. Those of you who have been with us know how nice they are!

Greg is just starting to take reservations for the rooms, so there's plenty of time to think things over for 2004.

Be aware also that the cost has gone up slightly, about \$4 per room per day (which works out to be \$1 per person per day). It's still the best Dayton room bargain that you'll find, short of crashing on a relative's couch! Interested? Contact Greg at kq3dx@hotmail.com.

WASHNet NCS Schedule:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 12/05 - Hank KB3FNM | 01/02 - Michael KB3HFP |
| 12/12 - Harold KB3CP1 | 01/09 - Frank KB3FZU |
| 12/19 - Bill W3WH | 01/16 - Paul NØVLR |
| 12/26 - Bell Family | |

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2005 Today! Membership Application on Page 9!

Minutes, November 11th Meeting

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

Bill, W3WH, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:04 hours. There were 27 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 September meeting as published in the September newsletter. The motion was made by N3ZNI, Ed, seconded by KB3GMN, Carol. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Read & Accepted

Secretary (KB3FZU): No Report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session will be next week, 10/21/2004. Thanks for the help at the WACOM Hamfest.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): Status quo with the repeaters. Steve would like to get the Echo Link up soon. A new 'box' (computer) is waiting to be installed.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Schedule is up through the second week in January.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): There will be a 50/50 after the meeting.

Public Service (N3RDV): Looking for ARIES net control operators, please get in touch with Mark, N3RDV.

Contests (K3VX): The WA3SH group worked all 67 counties in the PA QSO Party. Thanks to Rick for making the arrangements at the Heritage Reservation and a good time was had by all. Ed, N3ZNI, worked the contest mobile and got a total of 502 contacts. Everyone that was at the meeting took a turn telling stories of the 2004 PA QSO party – it sounded like everyone had a good time.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): Expect to see more requests on the e-mail reflector to verify new users. There is a new spam trick to gain access to closed lists and we do not want to get into that trap.

President's Report (W3WH): No Report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Christmas party – we are targeting the second Thursday in December, at Al's Café. The club has won an Icom 2100 2 meter mobile at the WACOM Hamfest. We are going to sell tickets at the Christmas party for the radio.

Jim, WB4GCS, was in Washington, DC for the AMSAT Symposium. Jim is the project manager for the next satellite which is the Eagle. Echo is paid for. The fundraising is now for Eagle, an estimate to build is \$600,000 and the launch will cost anywhere up to 1.5 million. Jim also went over the highlights of the AMSAT Symposium. The text of the papers that were presented is available in the AMSAT proceedings book which is on sale for \$20.00.

Repeaters. Bill presented a repeater policy for the club to adopt. Dick, N3QMV, moved that we accept the repeater policy with a \$100 limit for major work. Jim, WB4GCS, seconded. Motion was voted on and carried. Pete N3RNX will be the Chairman of the Repeater Committee.

Nominations were opened for President and Vice President/Secretary.

President: Ron, WN3VAW, nominated Larry K3VX
Ted, W4ZE, nominated Kevin N3HKQ

Rick, KB3IAC, motioned to closed, Bob, W3RJM, seconded.

Vice President/Secretary: Paul, NØVLR, nominated Paul, KB3KOT.
Ron, WN3VAW, nominated Dan, KB3HVN.

Ed, N3ZNI, moved to close the nominations, Pete, N3RNX, seconded.

Good of the Order: The FCC approved BPL rules on the day of our meeting. The equipment must be type certified by the FCC.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Carol, KB3GMN, and seconded by Steve, W3SRL, seconded. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:44.

In the future, there will only be three enterprises: The Internet, Home Depot, and UPS... oh yes, and the garbage man to clean it all up!

— Ward Silver NØAX, Dayton 2004

WASH Spotlight: JOTA



Holding Certificates of Thanks & Appreciation for their participation in the W3S JOTA Special Event Station operation, courtesy of the Greater Pittsburgh Council BSA, are Bill W3WH, Rick KB3IAC, Kevin N3HKQ, Steve W3SRL, Larry K3VX, and Paul NØVLR. Rick, who presented the certificates on behalf of GPC BSA, is holding the Club's certificate. (You did get one too, didn't you Rick?)

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Dave DeMotte N3IDH

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron WN3VAW at wn3vaw@njdxa.org

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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!



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 December at the **Your Way Café**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads, Whitehall, and in January at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Was hington, and in . Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3GMO	KE7FD	N3SBF	W3JAF	Barbara Mistic
AA3JS	KB3GMP	KE8RN	N3TBK	W3RJM	David Delmonico
AB3AB	KB3GMU	KQ3DX	N3UE	W3RWS	
K3BZW	KB3GZG	NØPEU	N3UIW	W3SRL	Silent Keys
K3JDS	KB3GUF	NØVLR	N3VEH	W3VE	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3HFP	NØWPV	N3WPT	W3VFA	KB3ENX
K3OL	KB3HVN	N2QIV	N3XFE	W3WH	KB3FQT
K3PCF	KB3IAC	N3AWF	N3XI	W4ZE	N3KEH
K3VX	KB3ICC	N3BSQ	N3YPB	W8LEV	N3OBD
K3WR	KB3JX	N3CZZ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	N3SKR
K9LZ	KB3IRQ	N3FZ	N3ZCG	WA3RVD	N3SRC
KA3PPH	KB3IVW	N3HKQ	N3ZEG	WB3BPH	W3ZLK
KA3TFB	KB3IVX	N3IDH	N3ZEH	WB4GCS	
KA3UPY	KB3KOT	N3INT	N3ZEL	WB3GTL	Color Codes:
KA3WZO	KB3QX	N3KFD	N3ZNI	WN3BOJ	2004 Member
KA3YTS	KC2JJB	N3PN	N4MIS	WN3VAW	2003 Member
KB3ANH	KC4WTT	N3QMV	NP2JF	WO3Z	2002 Member
KB3CPI	KC6VLV	N3RDV	N8DPW		2001 Member
KB3DCO	KD3JV	N3RHT	W3GEL		(2000 and earlier
KB3EPI	KE3XB	N3RNX	W3HND		members no longer
KB3ERQ					displayed)
KB3FNM					
KB3FZU					
KB3GMN					

Through July 14th, 2004

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

5th Annual WASH 2M Contest!

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

Remember: In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the Ten-Tec 6N2, IC-706 & FT-100, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Maybe next year!)

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

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 8th, 2005 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 9th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

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

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

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

Special Note On Band Plans: According to the WPRC Frequency Coordinator, the Western PA Repeater Council has issued their own 2 Meter band plan that differs from the ARRL plan. According to the WPRC plan, many FM Simplex channels under the ARRL plan have been "withdrawn" and been reserved or re-assigned as repeater inputs and/or outputs. It is not known how many of the frequencies have actually been coordinated for actual working repeaters. Considering that the ARRL band plan has been in existence for over 25 years, that the WPRC band plan is of much more recent vintage, and that the WPRC band plan is virtually unknown outside of the WPRC, we are using the ARRL plan as our "standard." However, contest participants are reminded that under good amateur practice, they should try and avoid interference with actual operating repeaters using these frequencies. Therefore, contest participants are requested to refrain from using "standard" simplex frequencies that are known to be repeater inputs and/or outputs in their geographical area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

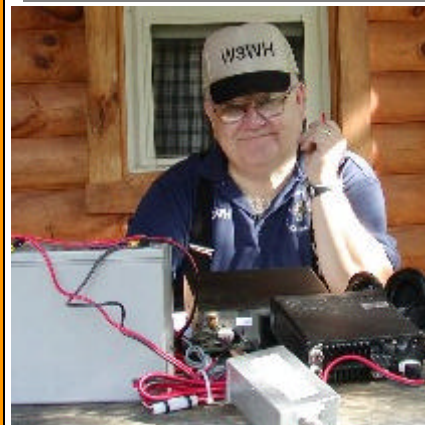
More 2004 Pennsylvania QSO Party Photos!



Above: N3SH/Greene County QRV from the cabins at Ryerson's Landing State Park: "W3RJM Works Another One!"

Below: W3WH/QRP/Greene County: "W3WH is Pleased!"

Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2004 Larry Comden K3VX



Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

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

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

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

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

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.
 Entry Deadline: February 8th, 2005

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2005 on February 27th!

A Sweepstakes Lesson

Marty Young W4MY courtesy of www.eham.net

I have just returned from a whirlwind weekend in Myrtle Beach, SC and am sitting back reflecting all that has transpired in the last two days. It was education, vacation, frustration, elation, and exhaustion; all at the same time!

First, the Myth: I've always had this idea that contesting (or operating in general) is best when I am on the receiving end of a run where stations are falling over themselves to work ME! I hope I'm not the only one! Anyway, since I don't have wheelbarrows full of money to spend on joining an exotic dxpedition, I thought (and now here's the myth) that all one had to do is travel to a "rare" sweepstakes location here is the good old USA and that would satisfy the appetite for that elusive pileup. After all, how many times have I been one of those mediocre signals in a pile seeking Northern Territories, Idaho, North Dakota, or Rhode Island for that final section in Sweepstakes? Lots of times.

The Twisted Logic: I did some research and looked at past results from Sweepstakes in years gone by. Twenty-Eight logs were submitted last year from North Carolina contesters. Seventy-three had participated from Virginia. There were only seven from Delaware, the state with the fewest hams. Then I checked South Carolina. Seven. Huh? Only seven? I guess there aren't many contesters in the state to our south. I have always had trouble getting SC section in the past; maybe my pileup was there?

Darn the Torpedoes, Full Speed Ahead: OK, we're going to South Carolina for Sweepstakes Phone. Where can I get an antenna high in the air and be fairly comfortable (I didn't want to operate from a picnic table in a public park, hi!) I thought putting a small antenna on the balcony of a top floor room in high rise hotel. Combine that with the ocean, just the ticket! Myrtle Beach is that kind of place, and the XYL won't object to going there! Perfect plan. After all, height is the most important aspect in an antenna and even a small compromise antenna would be awesome on the 18th floor! Not!

The Reality: I knew the antenna had to be small. A lot of good things have been said about the W3FF Buddipole, so I built one and tested it. I acquired a Hamstick for 75 along the way and all was set. Both are good all purpose antennas, and I got good reports from casually operating with them. But they are severely compromised in the efficiency department simply because their small size. This didn't matter, I thought, after all height and location (See Twisted Logic above) was the great equalizer! The result? I had a signal that was strong enough to successfully interfere with my competition and make the station I was calling ask for a repeat of the other guy. I could not sustain a run for any length of time because shifting propagation caused QRM to "bump" me. I received strong stations that sometimes simply didn't answer me even with no one else calling them. Each and every QSO (with some exceptions) was an exercise of great effort. Long CQ's went with no answer. When I finely would work one, they would say, gratefully, "Thanks for SC, needed that one last year, you're my third one, glad to see you guys out this year." Urrrrgh! That was just great! I was getting the revelation on my Twisted Logic. To add insult to injury, I too needed SC section for my score. I found one who was running a big pileup, massive pileup, MY PILEUP, a pileup I was never able to break into. I missed only 9 sections, SC was one of them.

The Glass is Half Full: The Poindexter Hotel was right on the ocean and had some good quality time with my XYL at sunrise when there were no signals on any band. She was a real trooper, taking care of my creature comforts and pretending not to be disappointed at getting a room with the balcony facing the street (west) and not one facing the ocean. She also said it was no problem getting the \$45 room, as the \$117 room was much more than we needed. Almost every one of the 425 guys (and a few gals) I worked expressed gladness, relief and great appreciation for working SC. Some, you could just tell in their voice, others expressed it to me, and a few were even beside themselves with joy. It was fun being on the receiving end of all that. I had two brief runs (less than an hour) on 15 meters; I may have been spotted once. I'm guessing the multiplier hunters from the big stations were working the other SC stations I mentioned. Bottom line, I got 60,064 points, 71 sections, and worked the entire allotted 24 hours (out of 30). If there were sweep credits for receiving, I had a "receive" sweep, just couldn't break the piles for a Q.

Post Mortem: I've had a better score working casually from home in North Carolina where NC Q's are a dime a dozen. What I have learned from this experience is that contests are brutal. Compromise antennas that, under ordinary circumstances, are entirely satisfactory don't bode well in contests. No height or seemingly "rare" location will make up for this deficiency. And the lower the frequency, the worst this is. If ten meters had been open, maybe I would have had a different result. The semi-rare stations running good

(Sweepstakes Lesson Continued on page 7)

DX News Briefs



For over 10 years, the authorities in India have prevented any Amateur Radio operation from the **VU4 Andaman Islands** allegedly for security reasons. In mid November, word came out that VU2RBI, who was involved with one of the last DXpeditions to the islands, was seeking permission from the government to operate — and got it! **VU4RBI** and **VU4NRO** went QRV on December 1st and will remain active for the entire month. At present, 5 operators are running the two calls from 3 different locations. They are concentrating for now on 20 meter SSB, and some 15 meter SSB, in order to provide "new ones" from this very rare DXCC entity to as many amateurs as possible. As of deadline, no CW operation had taken place; any alleged CW operations are those of Slim. CW operation may take place later, when K4VUD plans to join the operation, if he is permitted. More information is available on the NIAR web site at www.niar.org. Donations can be sent to K4VUD and he will transfer the funds. QSL via VU2NRO — K4VUD

Operators from Norway and Denmark will be active in January from Easter Island as **3GØYP** (SSB) & **3GØYM** (CW & Digital). Activity will be on 160—10 meters. More info at <http://home.online.no/%7Es-roabr/ladxa> — OPDX

The group heading to **60 Somalia** in February has established an on-line survey for amateurs to indicate their bands & modes. Page can be found at www.i2ysb.com/60/need.htm — I2YSB

Frosty K5LBU is going back to Africa in 2005. He's looking for at least 3 other operators to join him in **A2 Botswana** and **C9 Mozambique**, possibly also going to **3DAØ Swaziland**. Operators should plan on at least 8, but more likely 10, days from time of arrival until leaving. Interested amateurs should contact Frosty at frosty1@pdq.net — K5LBU, OPDX, 425 DX

LA5YJ has been assigned **ST2YJ** and is now QRV from the Sudan. Watch 17 meters, 18.068 from 0700—0930Z and around 1530Z, and 30 meters, 10.105 from 1545—1845 Z, and around 0425 Z. QSL via LA4YW — LA5YJ

A team headed by SM6WET will be active from both the North and South Cook Islands 31 January - 3 March. Calls will include **ZK1WET**, **ZK1XMY**, **ZK1DSE**, and **ZK1SDZ**. They will concentrate on 17 and 20 meters, but will be active on 160—10 meters. Most will be QRV on SSB, but ZK1WET will be active on RTTY & CW, and will be active in the CQ WW RTTY contest. QSL via M3SDE only, do not QSL via the buro — SM6WET, OPDX

N4BAA & N4SIA will be active from Guantanamo as **KG4SB** (via N4BAA) and **KG4AS** (via N4SIA) 18—25 January. Two other operators (and calls) will be announced later. They will have up to three radios QRV at a time, concentrating on CW, RTTY & Digital on 160—10 meters from the GITMO club station — barefoot, no amplifiers available. They are also looking for a small 6 meter antenna to bring along and donate. For more information, email n4baa@arri.net — N4BAA, ARRL DX, OPDX

QSL Routes

3DAØRN via G4IRN — JJ1BDX	J42T via SV2BFN — W9OL
3E1A via DL6MYL — K9RT	JY9QJ via DL5MBY — KC5YKX
4K8W via DL6KVA — K5AQ	KG4WW via KX4WW — W8TTS
5NØNHD via JK1UWY — JF1LZQ	KH8/N5OLS via N5JA — RA3SL
5T5SN via IZ1BZY — K9RT	OD5RMK via I1HJT — RW3RN
6LØNJ/4 via DS4AEN — DE1DXX	P29XF via G3TXF — JJ1BDX
6W7RV via F8CMT — PAØRDY	ST2T via S57DX — 9K2HN
7P8DA via K4YL — RW3RN	SY8DX via SV2DGH — K7ZD
8P2K via KU9C — VA7EWK	T94DO via DJ2MX — W9OL
A71EM via LZ1YE — RW3RN	T98LBC via DL7AFS — W9OL
BI7DX via BA1DU — JJ1BDX	TI8M via TI2KAC — W2IRT
C21DL via DJ2EH — JJ1BDX	TZ6M via PA7FM — XE1ZV
C5ØI via EA3BT — RW3RN	V31LZ via LZ3RZ — JJ1BDX
D2FPN via K55DO — W9OL	V63NS via V73NS — JJ1BDX
EM1HO via I2PJA — KC5YKX	V85PB via K6ZSS — WØMM
FW7AQR via JA7AQR — K7ACZ	V8FDS via JM1LJS — W9OL
HI3TEJ via ON4IQ — VA7EWK	YJØXX via NY6DX — W9OL
JW5E via LA5NM — UAØMF	Z38Z via DL7AFS — W9OL
LW1DGD via EA7FTR — VA7EWK	ZK1MA via W7TSQ — WØMM
J5UAD via I2SB — DE1DXX	ZP6T via ZP9MAL — N9BOR
H8A via DL6MYL — K9RT	ZYØK via KQØB — KQØB

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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FCC News

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

Newington, CT, November 16th, 2004 — FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has reminded a New Jersey radio amateur that all frequencies in the Amateur Service are shared. Hollingsworth included the advice in a *Warning Notice* to Irwin L. Richardt, W2VJZ, in response to complaints from other 75-meter AM operators.

Hollingsworth in July asked Richardt, an Advanced class licensee, to respond to a complaint alleging, among other things, that Richardt would not relinquish the "AM window" (3885 kHz) or let others use the frequency unless he was included in the conversation. Richardt promptly responded, charging that the complaint was "yet another of those many attempts over the years to stop me from freely speaking on my radio station about Jesus, Jefferson and Jersey." Hollingsworth called the response "unacceptable."



"We have reviewed your response as well as tape recordings submitted with the complaint," Hollingsworth said in the October 22 *Warning Notice*. He told Richardt that it was "absolutely irrelevant" under the Amateur Service rules how long he had been licensed or how many hours a day he spent monitoring or using the frequency.

"None of that makes a frequency 'your frequency,'" Hollingsworth said, "and contrary to your belief, anyone you perceive as a 'newcomer' to the frequency-- or indeed even a 'newcomer' to Amateur Radio--has the same rights to that frequency as yourself."

The primary complainant has alleged that Richardt exhibits "eccentric" and "offensive" behavior on the air, occasionally leaving his AM transmitter keyed while he does other tasks around his house. Another radio amateur, a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council, said W2VJZ continues to attempt to contact him even though he's made it clear he does n't wish to speak with Richardt.

Referring to his ham station as "my electronic printing press," Richardt asserted in his July 28 response to the FCC that he's been "a victim of vicious radio jamming for well over one quarter of a century." He also claimed to have once discovered a "jamming transmitter" hidden in nearby woods "to prevent me from freely speaking." In addition, Richardt accused another station of transmitting "filthy lies and language" when he was in QSO with his friends in July.

Hollingsworth said if incidents "such as those outlined in the complaint" recur, the FCC will initiate enforcement actions that could include fines, license revocation or both.

Back Issues of the *WASHRag* can be found on the web at:

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks **NOPEU** for providing the site!

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.

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

(Sweepstakes Lesson Continued from page 6)

pileups (MS, WY, ND, MB) all had BOOMING signals. Twice, when I worked a Q1 got the comment, "nice signal" how did that happen? Most of the time I would get beat out by a station, then, as I was listening waiting my turn, the running station would tell that caller, "please repeat all, I can barely copy you!?" Sheesh, was my signal that weak? Running stations had good signals, period. Signal and technique were really the most important aspects of success; location was only a minor enhancement in contesting, not the great equalizer I had hoped. I have a new respect to the QRP contesters, it must take a lot of patience. That is what I learned.



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

Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, 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!

Silent Keys



Rich Armstrong N3SRC, 59, South Park, November 22nd

Now in our TENTH big year!



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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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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
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Inside This Issue:

- Announcing our 2005 Officers!
- Pictures from N3SH / Greene County Pa QSO Party 2004
- The FCC reminds you to play nice... and don't forget to share!
- Post-hurricane news from KA3UPY!
- One ham's lessons from operating in the ARRL Sweepstakes!

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



Clean Sweep de WA3SH / FAY

As has been our custom, operators from Team WA3SH were presented with their official **WASH** Clean Sweep brooms (courtesy of Paul NØVLR) for contacting all 67 Pennsylvania Counties during the 2004 Pennsylvania QSO Party. Present were (L - R) Ed N3ZNI, Kevin N3HKQ, Frank KB3FZU, Rick KB3IAC, Paul KB3KOT, Dan KB3HVN and Paul NØVLR.

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Dave DeMotte N3IDH
More PA QSO Party Photos inside!

Upcoming WASH Club Events:

- ♦ Eleventh Annual Christmas / Holiday Party, Al's Café, December 9th — Hope to see you there!



The WASH Rag

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



N3SH / WA3SH
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