



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 7 Issue 2

February 2005

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

It's Showtime!

Show time actually means show up time. Show up to work for the Club at our Annual hamfest February 27th. It's really never been a problem getting your Club to pitch in and help with the **WASHfest**, but let's make sure it doesn't become an issue this year either.

We are fortunate to have a Hamfest that isn't declining. When is the last time you heard of a show selling out of prize tickets? We did that last year. This year let's shoot to beat last year's performance. N3BPB we need you and everyone else that can lend a hand. At the February meeting we'll have a sign up sheet available; help will be needed from 5 AM 'til cleanup is finished sometime in early afternoon on February 27th.

WASHfest will be very similar this year to years past. We'll be at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall with Free Coffee all day courtesy of Ham Radio Insurance Associates. Donuts will also be free 'til 8:00 and after that we can look forward to Jack's great Breakfast sandwiches and more....

Why not start looking around the shack now and put together some things you just don't need any longer and bring them to sell at the **WASHfest**. This way you can enjoy eyeball QSO's all day, clean up the shack and profit from the whole experience. Come and spend the day with your radio friends and get excited about the world's greatest hobby all over again!

73, Bill Hill W3WH
Co-Chairman, **WASHfest 2005**

KR3P Demands Retraction

In an e-mail sent (unsuccessfully) to the **WASH** Reflector, several club officers, the ARRL WPA Section Manager, and others slightly over 2 hours prior to this year's 2 Meter Contest, Joe McElhane KR3P, Repeater Frequency Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council, objected to the club's choices of available simplex frequencies for participants in the contest.

In his email, KR3P asserted that references to the WPRC Band Plan differing from the ARRL Band Plan were inaccurate. Further, he states that our "conclusion" that the WPRC has no authority to coordinate the RF spectrum is also inaccurate, citing the ARRL's recognition of the WPRC as the WPA "frequency coordination entity" as proof, and thus that only the WPRC can determine how the "local option" in the ARRL Band Plan on shared simplex/repeater input frequencies in Western Pennsylvania.

KR3P further states that the club members "never took any steps to determine the band plan and never contacted WPRC." During February 2004, WN3VAW did contact KR3P, and attempted to contact other members of the WPRC Executive Committee, for specifics (following reports via another club's email reflector that there was a claim of interference to repeaters). Only KR3P

(KR3P Continued on page 7)

Presidential Words

Its February already and for us that means **WASHfest**. Steve Lane W3SRL in his usual fashion has things well in hand and I for one am grateful to Steve and I am sure you all are as well. However come hamfest weekend we all need to show Steve that gratitude by helping with setup, being as helpful as possible during the hamfest, and cleaning up afterward. So please keep the weekend of February 26th & 27th open to make our club's premier event the best it can be.

Jim Sanford and I will again host an AMSAT table and in addition, I will attempt to make some satellite contacts through AO-51 and FO-29. The predictions for both satellites the morning of the hamfest look favorable with two good passes for each satellite before noon. I will use my FT-817, N3BPB's Arrow antenna, and a preamp (and some practice before hand). With a little luck I should be able to pull this off.

Another fun event that comes this month is WACOM's participation in the Washington County Sportsman's Show at Washington Crown Center Mall at the Chestnut Street/US 40 exit off of I-70. This year the show will run from Thursday February 3rd to Sunday February 6th, 2005. Every year they sponsor a special event station W3C in an effort to promote ham radio. This year WACOM is doing something special by offering to pass messages along to service men and women from friends and loved ones via amateur radio. These messages will be sent using the ARRL's time tested traffic handling techniques but I am sure WACOM will welcome any assistance.

Although it's mid winter, there is a lot of fun to have. I hope to see you at both of these events.

73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Next Meeting: February 10th, 2005

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

Our 2 Meter Contest and **WASHfest 2005** final plans will be among the topics discussed.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) KB3FZU/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

Inside this issue:

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Field Day 2005 Changes	5
True Ham Tales	7
DX News Briefs	8
FCC News	9
WASHfest 2005	10

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 DX SSB Contest March 5th & 6th
- 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest March 6th
- Breezeshooters Groundwave SSB Contest March 19th
- CQ WPX SSB Contest March 26th & 27th
- Dayton Hamvention, May 20th – 22nd
- CQ Worldwide Prefix Contest CW May 28th & 29th
- Breezeshooters Hamfest June 5th
- ARRL Field Day June 25th & 26th

February 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap m' Shop Net	2 Groundhog Day WACOM Meeting Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	3 <i>Be Nice to Your Editor Day</i> RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	4 Elco ARS Meeting	5 AMSAT AO-51 Kid's Day SWPaPPG Meeting RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
		W3C Special Event Station @ Washington Sports Show				
6 Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net W3C Last Day	7 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	8 Mardi Gras Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawny Area ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net	9 Ash Wednesday North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VHF Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	10 WASH Meeting Start of Lent Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	11 <i>To Whom & For How Long?</i>	12 Lincoln's Birthday CQ WPX RTTY Contest 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
13 CQ WPX RTTY Contest OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	14 Sun of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	15 Steel City ARC Meeting S H B P & M Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net	16 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	17 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	18 Quad Co ARC Meeting	19 ARRL DX Contest CW Breezeshooters CW Groundwave Contest North Hills ARC Elmer Net
20 ARRL DX Contest CW Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	21 President's Day Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	22 Washington's Birthday Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap m' Shop Net	23 NHARC Activity Night Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	24 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	25	26 WASH Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
WASHFest 2005 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	28 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	3/1 Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap m' Shop Net	3/2 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	3/3 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	3/4 Elco ARS Meeting	3/5 ARRL DX Contest SSB RA Erie VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net

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
Activities & Operating Events Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Larry Comden K3VX
Ted Huf W4ZE
Ways & Means Carol Danko KB3GMN
Media Communications Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Allegheny Co ARES Representative Ben Williams KB3ERQ

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS & BEACONS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX/R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
		Echo Link #26861 (courtesy W3SRL)	
Canonsburg	KB3FZU/R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH/B	28.276 MHz	

N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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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 KB3FZU/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Shawn Djernes NØPEU for providing space on-line for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at www.washarc.org or www.djernes.org/washrag

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test April 21st

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, April 21st, 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 **\$14.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, July 21st, 2005
 Thursday, October 20th, 2005
 Thursday, January 19th, 2006
 Thursday, April 20th, 2006

The last Saturday in January brought together the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at the **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road north of Washington. According to Ye Editor's illegible notes, attendees included W3VH, N3HKQ, W9UK, N3XFE, W8LEV, N3ZNI, N3ZEL, WO3Z, WB4GCS, N3IDH and N3CZZ... and a few more who's names and/or calls got obliterated (sorry about that, he promises to take better notes the next time). Topics of the morning included operating the 160 M contest, airlines, SASE, computer speeds, Goodwill donations, PNC drive through, allegedly universal car symbols, NBC towers, & a bunch more lost in the scribbles.

The next Club Breakfast will be at the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, February 26th, the day before **WASHfest 2005**, and we return to **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, on March 26th. See you there!

Are You Feeling Blue today? As you may have already noticed over on Page 4, the membership chart color codes have been updated. Current members, that is, those that have paid dues for 2005, are now in **Bold Blue**. Members who last paid dues in 2004 are now in **Black**, in 2003 in **Green**, and in 2002 in **Red**. (Only 2005 members are in bold, the emphasis has been added here to make the colors stand out). If you haven't paid dues since 2001 or earlier, your call is no longer listed. The color shuffle was done at the request of several members at the January meeting to help make the differences stand out.

Now there's no gentle way to say this, but... if you haven't paid dues to the club in a few years, and still want to be considered a full-blown member of the club, now is the time to turn to Page 11 and send that renewal application in. Keep in mind that dues have not changed in at least 10 years, maybe not at all, so they're really a bargain. We're a stronger group with you than without you, and we want you to stay with us, so why not drop that check in the mail to N3RDV today?

On the mend: Word is that N3UE spent some time back in the hospital last month. We all hope Ed is home and on the mend... meetings just aren't the same without our resident grump and naysayer!

January 20th VE Test Results: Maybe it was the poor weather forecast, but we had no candidates at our January 20th VEC test session, held at the Peters Township Library in Peters Township.

Sometimes these things happen... Thanks to the entire VE team who showed up, Jacqué N3ZEL, Bob KB3IN, Ron WN3VAW and Ed N3ZNI. Hopefully we'll have a better turnout at our April session!

Changes: Nelson N3PN has changed employment and is now in real estate. Good luck in your new position! And speaking of which...

Classified Ads? Haven't been too many lately. Seems the column has evolved into more of a courtesy listing for certain club members. Not that there's anything wrong with that, but is this the best use for this column? Should we drop it, keep it, get more actual ads? And if we keep it as is, should we continue it as a free courtesy to club members, or ask for some sort of... shall we say, recognition? Let us know, either via email or at the next meeting!

March Newsletter Deadline has been moved up to February 20th so that we can get the next issue out on or about February 25th, in time for **WASHfest 2005**. Plan accordingly, please, as we can't promise to fit in anything that comes in after the deadline! Thanks!

Pennsylvania Town Drops BPL Plans

The Borough of Chambersburg, PA has decided against plans to offer broadband Internet service via broadband over power line (BPL) technology, according to a January 18 report in *Public Opinion*. The Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club (CVARC) spearheaded ham radio opposition to the plan in the eastern Pennsylvania community of some 17,000 residents through an informational campaign.

"We were lucky, but only because many members of the local amateur community put time in to fight BPL right up front, before the municipality had thrown so much money at it that it had a stake in it succeeding," CVARC President David Yoder KB3HUC, told ARRL. "I can't emphasize that enough — putting people in front of the decision-makers, working with the press and so forth paid off, because we jumped in as soon as we heard BPL was being considered."

The *Public Opinion* article by Cathy Mentzer, quoted Chambersburg officials as saying there wasn't enough money in the municipality's Electric Department budget to go forward with a BPL deployment this year. Borough officials also cited state legislation effective last year that

(BPL Continued on page 5)

WASHNet 2005 NCS Schedule

02/06 — Steve W3SRL	04/24 — Hank KB3FNM
02/13 — Kevin N3HKQ	05/01 — Kevin N3HKQ
02/20 — Harold KB3CPI	05/08 — Harold KB3CPI
02/27 — Bell Family	05/15 — Bill W3WH
03/06 — Bill W3WH	05/22 — Bell Family
03/13 — Michael KB3HFP	05/29 — Michael KB3HFP
03/20 — Frank KB3FZU	06/05 — Frank KB3FZU
03/27 — Kevin N3HKQ	06/12 — Paul NØVLR
04/03 — Paul NØVLR	06/19 — Hank KB3FNM
04/10 — Carol KB3GMN or Rich N3SBF	06/26 — Carol KB3GMN or Rich N3SBF
04/17 — Steve W3SRL	Alternate — Ron WN3VAW

	Day	Object	AOS UTC	LOS UTC	Period	Max El	Az
Satellite Predictions for WASHfest Courtesy of Kevin Smith N3HKQ	02/27	ISS	11:27	11:36	09 27	295	149
	02/27	FO-29	13:27	13:36	09 06	051	128
	02/27	AO-51	14:34	14:47	13 24	026	163
	02/27	FO-29	15:10	15:26	16 68	016	190
WinAos QTH: - 79.9/40.2 T#: 9919	02/27	AO-51	16:13	16:27	14 35	003	216
	02/27	FO-29	16:56	17:08	12 15	352	243
	02/27	AO-51	17:55	18:00	05 01	326	284

The ARRL Web site now features up-to-date listings of DXCC awards earned. The new system shows every issued DXCC award known to ARRL's computerized DXCC system. Membership Services Mgr. Wayne Mills N7NG, says the Web site listing is more complete than the *DXCC Yearbook* ever was, since the printed list did not list inactive band accounts for the previous year. "This lists everything and everybody," Mills emphasized. "The new system makes available a separate listing for each DXCC award type — band or mode." Each listing by band or mode is complete in a separate Adobe PDF file.

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2005 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!

Minutes, January 13th Meeting

Steve Lane W3SRL, VP/ Secretary, **WASH**

Bill, W3WH, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours. .

President Kevin Smith, N3HKQ, called the meeting to order at 19:03 hours.

N3HKQ called for a moment of silence for recent Silent Keys and other deserving persons.

Introductions were made all around the room, as is our custom.

A motion was made by Ed, N3ZNI and seconded by Dick, N3QMV to waive the reading of last month's minutes, and to accept them as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: N3RDV is on bed rest by doctor's orders, so no Treasurer's report tonight. N3HKQ requested on Mark's behalf that members pay their dues ASAP, as we have some significant expenses coming up for the hamfest.

VE: Jacqué N3ZEL reported that there would be a VE exam next Thursday, January 20th. VEs are always needed. She also reported that the ARRL VEC has set the examination fee at \$14.00 for 2005, and as long as the candidate continues to pass exams, no additional fee is charged. Retests however will be an additional \$14.00.

Secretary: No report.

Repeaters: KB3FZU reported that the 443.65 machine is working pretty well, but the Downtown receiver site needs work. Frank also has a new receive site under construction, and the equipment to outfit it. Stay tuned. W3SRL reported that the 146.955 needs a tune-up done, and that he and N3RNK will be going up sometime soon to do that. N3BSQ graciously donated a new PIII-500 tower system to get the Echolink node back up on the 442.550 machine. We are looking into linking the two Mt. Lebanon machines, as well.

FM Net: N3HKQ reported that the schedule is out until June.

Public Service: N3RDV appeared from his deathbed to report that the late March, early April 'walkathons' would be coming up soon. News to follow. N3IDH reported that there will be a PEMA drill from 3-5 PM on February 2nd for all of Allegheny, Armstrong and Washington counties.

Activities: N3ZNI reported that W3C will be QRV at the Washington Crown Center for the Sportsmen's Show February 3rd through 6th, courtesy of WACOM. All are welcome. N3ZEL reported that WACOM will be offering a traffic-handling class at the Washington 9-1-1 center. WB4GCS reported that he now has the ability to digitize video, and would like copies of any video anyone has of the ARISS contact at the USC High School.

Field Day: KB3IAC queried the group to see what their wishes were for Field Day. Possibilities included running the Radio Merit Badge for the Boy Scouts again at Field Day, as well as opening up the WASH Field Day to the Boy Scouts to use our GOTA station. N3HKQ asked for a motion to permit KB3IAC to make arrangements to secure the Mingo Creek site for Field Day, and to negotiate the best deal possible for the cost. Motion made by WN3VAW and seconded by N2QIV. 1 opposed, motion carried.

Contests: W4ZE reported the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes is on January 22nd-24th, all bands from 6 meters on up. WO3Z reported the CQ WW/160 meter contest is coming up January 29th-30th. A brief discussion on the WASH 2-meter contest followed. W3WH announced that N3SH had 101 contacts, and only 1 on SSB. WA3SH had 70 contacts, with 27 or 28 zip codes represented. 300 points was the total.

Newsletter: WN3VAW reported that the newsletter went out on time. Submissions are always gladly accepted!

Ways & Means: KB3GMN exercised her usual tact and charm in extorting cash from nearly all present for the 50/50 drawing. W3SRL won about 22 bux in the raffle, and donated half of the proceeds back to the club.

N3HKQ questioned the practice of naming every old, no-longer-current members on the roster in the newsletter. KB3IAC questioned whether all members were indeed receiving the newsletter, in order for them to receive the renewal notice in side. A brief discussion then ensued regarding the idea of simply snail-mailing the renewal application to every member. A consensus of the membership was in favor of #1 emailing the renewal out to all members and then #2 snail-mailing a renewal notice to those who do not respond.

President: No report.

Hamfest: On track, no real news. Need warm bodies on Sunday AM at 5 to help out. W3SRL to see about getting into the hall the night before again

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 5)

WASH Spotlight



Some of the January Breakfast Gang. (L—R) N3ZNI, N3XFE, WN3VAW, W8LEV, W3WH.

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2005 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

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 February at the **Your Way Café**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads, Whitehall, and March at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington. 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

AA3JS	KB3HFP	N2QIV	N3XI	W4ZE	Silent Keys K3EED KB3ENX KB3FQT N3KEH N3OBD N3SKR N3SRC W3ZLK
AA3FI	KB3HVN	N3AWF	N3YPB	W8LEV	
AB3AB	KB3IAC	N3BSQ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	
K3BZW	KB3ICC	N3CZZ	N3ZCG	WA3RVD	
K3JDS	KB3IJX	N3DFK	N3ZEG	WB3BPH	
K3LGM	KB3IRQ	N3FZ	N3ZEH	WB4GCS	
K3OL	KB3IVW	N3HKQ	N3ZEL	WB3GTL	
K3PCF	KB3IVX	N3IDH	N3ZNI	WN3BOJ	
K3VX	KB3KOT	N3INT	N4MIS	WN3VAW	
K9LZ	KB3LIX	N3KFD	NP2JF	WO3Z	
KA3PPH	KB3QX	N3PN	N8DPW	Barbara Misic	
KA3UPY	KC2JJB	N3QMV	W3GEL	David	
KA3WZO	KC4WTT	N3RDV	W3HND	Delmonico	
KB3CPI	KE3XB	N3RHT	W3JAF	Color Codes:	
KB3DCO	KE7FD	N3RNK	W3RJM	2004 Member	
KB3ERQ	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3RWS	2003 Member	
KB3FNM	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3SRL	2002 Member	
KB3FZU	NØVLR	N3VEH	N3UE	(2001 and earlier members no longer displayed)	
KB3GMN	NØVLPV	N3XFE	W3VFA		
KB3GMO			W3WH		
KB3GMP					
KB3GMU					
KB3GUZ					

Through December 29th, 2004
 List compiled by
 Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Some New Wrinkles in Field Day

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of The American Radio Relay League

Those planning to participate in this year's Field Day will need to bone up in advance on a few changes in the rules for the ever-popular operating event. Field Day this year takes place June 25th-26th. The 2261 Field Day entries for 2004 were the most ever. While similar in format to a contest, Field Day is primarily a means to exercise and demonstrate Amateur Radio's emergency operating capabilities while having fun at the same time. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that among other things rule changes for 2005 expand eligibility for bonus points.

"All groups will be eligible for some kind of bonus points," Henderson said. "Make sure you carefully read Field Day Rule 7.3." That rule spells out how to qualify for such bonus points as 100 percent emergency power, media publicity, message handling, making satellite contacts, using an alternative power source and copying the W1AW bulletin, among other things. Many bonus point categories are available to all entry classes.

Henderson notes that some large clubs often compete among themselves to see who can claim the highest number of transmitters. Under the revised rules, all transmitters must be on the air with an operator to count toward a club's entry class. "You have to actually have individual people and sufficient equipment capable of operating simultaneously," Henderson emphasized, referencing Rule 4. "The key word there is 'simultaneously.'"

The Field Day exchange consists of the number of transmitters on the air followed by the participation category (A through F). Operators would send "3A," for example, for a club or non-club portable setup with three transmitters on the air at the same time. Rule 4 also specifically prohibits switching & simulcasting devices.

The 2005 Field Day rules also modify the number of transmitters eligible for bonus points that a group can claim for its operating class. "You can only claim the emergency power bonus points for up to 20 transmitters," Henderson explains. "That's a maximum of 2000 emergency power bonus points." There is no limit on the number of transmitters eligible participants may have on the air, however. Field Day rules already generally prohibit the use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode.

In addition, Field Day 2005 will introduce a new "Youth Element" bonus category (Rule 7.3.15). Clubs or groups operating in Class A, C, D, E or F now can claim 20 bonus points--up to a maximum of 100--for each person aged 18 or younger, who completes a valid Field Day contact. Single-operator Class B stations can earn a 20-point bonus if the operator is age 18 or younger. Two-person Class B setups can claim a 20-point bonus for each operator age 18 or younger, for a maximum of 40 points. The maximum number of participants for Class B entries remains at 2.

Another rule change clarifies that Get On The Air (GOTA) stations--instituted a few years ago to encourage new or comparatively inexperienced operators to gain operating practice--use the same exchange as the "parent" station.

The maximum transmitter output power for GOTA stations is 150 W, and GOTA stations may only operate on the Field Day HF bands. Free transmitters do not count toward a group's total, and GOTA stations and free VHF stations for Class A entries do not qualify for bonus point credits.

Henderson encourages Field Day participants to submit their Field Day summaries electronically using the Web site for a 50 point bonus. The complete 2005 Field Day packet now is available on the ARRL Web site.

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

like last year, if possible.

Old Business: N3RDV Again, due are due NOW for 2005. Also, the fees for the web domain are now due. W3RJM motioned that we pay the \$15 to renew for two more years, and W3WH seconded. Motion carried.

N3RDV mentioned that the SWPA Packet Group meeting would be on February 5th at the Blue Flame restaurant on Rt. 51, for those interested.

WN3VAW spoke on the letter received from KR3P RE: Frequencies used in the WASH 2 meter contest. After a lengthy discussion and several proposals, KB3IAC proposed that a solution be sought through the ARRL WPA Section Manager, N3SRJ. Motion made by KB3IAC and seconded by W3SRL and carried.

New Business: W3WH suggested that the club make a donation to the Peters Twp. Public Library, in the form of a year's subscription to QST. W3SRL reminded the group of the donation made to the club some time ago in the name of N3KEH <sk> and that a similar donation to the Scott Twp. Library would also be appropriate. N3HKQ authorized W3SRL to look into this with Scott Township, and also with Peters Township.

With no more business to transact for this month, the meeting was adjourned at 20:34 hours, on a motion by W3WH and seconded by W3RJM and carried.

January Hamfest Preview

Don Merz N3RHT

Well, TUSCO was a bust for me. I saw that snow on Saturday and chickened out. I was sad to miss it. But, fear not. The annual **WASHfest** is coming up February 27th.

WASHfest 2005 is in the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall which is a fine hamfest facility. The hall is less than 2 miles south on Route 88 if you're coming from Route 51. It is well marked and has good parking. It's also one of the VERY few hamfests that is accessible by means of the "T" -- Pittsburgh's subway. Take the 47L subway from downtown. It runs right behind the Hall at the Grove Road stop.

WASHfest has become a Pittsburgh tradition. They were the first to have free coffee for all fest attendees and other hamfests are now following their lead. Good breakfast food is served from a well-equipped kitchen. The fest usually attracts 25 sellers and maybe 300 attendees -- not too shabby for February in the 'Burgh. I always get a table for my junk and I almost always end up taking home new junk So that's my definition of a good hamfest.

Also coming up is the Two Rivers ARC hamfest. This fest used to be in late March. But while Dayton seems to get later every year, Two Rivers seems to get earlier. This year, Two Rivers is the very next Sunday after **WASHfest** -- March 6th. It's in Boston, PA, out scenic Route 48 at the Spectrum, which is just as nice a facility as the CSVFD Memorial Hall. Two Rivers is another migrating hamfest. They used to be at the Monroeville Expo Mart. Then they moved the Palace Inn in Monroeville. (Going way back, some folks may recall when this fest was at Rostraver Ice Rink, Rostraver Fire Hall, and Penn State McKeesport). The last year it was at the Palace Inn, several key vendors didn't show up and the prizes were Easter baskets -- it was a disaster. But the Two Rivers crew is resourceful. They found a good location at the Spectrum and bounced back with a fine hamfest last year. My only wish is that they would keep it at the end of March instead of the beginning.

Are there any LOCAL April or May hamfests? Greensburg maybe? I have not seen any announcements for that one yet. Otherwise, for those willing to drive over two hours, you've got Timonium April 2nd & 3rd (go to <http://www.gbhc.org/>), Madison, Ohio April 3rd (go to www.lcara.org) and Cuyahoga Falls (Cleveland) on April 17th (e-mail to: w8tts@w8tts.com).

Interested in Antique Radio? The Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society and the Buckeye Radio and Phonograph Club have combined forces to sponsor the first annual Tri-State Spring Radio Fest in Beaver Falls at the Beaver Falls Holiday Inn located at the intersection of Turnpike exit 13 and Route 18. This is a flea market starting at 8AM and an auction running 1:30 to 5PM. This is the PARS answer to the demise of the "Pittsburgh Spring Fever" antique radio meet that used to be held every March. "Spring Fever" was apparently taken back by its original sponsor and is now at the antique radio museum in Huntingdon, West By God Virginia. The PARS leadership rightly figured that the 5 hour drive to Huntingdon made that meet impractical for its members. So now they have finally found a new venue and perhaps a friendlier club to work with. They also got the event sanctioned by the AWA -- the Antique Wireless Association -- which is the antique radio collectors' equivalent of the ARRL. For more information, phone Regis Flaherty at 724-969-0643 or e-mail cdwells@adelphia.net.

(BPL Continued from page 3)

encourages telecommunication companies to provide broadband to consumers. While the BPL initiative is off the borough's 2005 projects agenda, *Public Opinion* quoted Borough Council President Bill McLaughlin as saying, "As far as I'm concerned, it's dead."

Public Opinion also noted that CVARC members were pleased by the outcome. "That is good news," the article quoted Yoder as saying. "All Amateur Radio operators in the area are relieved to learn that apparently our concerns were taken into account, along with the recent legislation." Among other things, CVARC members had told the Borough Council last year that BPL would interfere with Amateur Radio and its ability to provide emergency communication.

Chambersburg officials had been looking into leasing the borough's power lines to an Internet service provider as a way to generate revenue, and a consultant had recommended they look into BPL.

— ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

QTH, Sweet QTH

Ron Notarius WN3VAW

A permanent home for N3SH. Wouldn't it be sweet?

The recent relocation of WACOM from their home of the last few years, and the subsequent storage (for now) of the WA3COM club station equipment, has led more than a few club members to muse whether or not having our own clubhouse and station setup would be a good thing. Wouldn't it?

Well, before you get visions of a genteel old brick building to rival W1AW, fields of towers and antennas, a parking lot to rival the local Home Depot, and rolling fields holding 80 and 160 meter Rhombics and 4 Squares, that double as a hamfest flea market grounds... I hate to be the harbinger of unpleas ant news. Because I too would love to have a clubhouse and station of our own. But it might not be an undertaking that we could pull off for several years to come — if ever.

Before even considering it, anyone who is serious about a clubhouse should travel to some of our neighboring clubs with property and talk to the officers and long-time members about what is involved. I can think of four off-hand — Steel City ARC W3KWH, Uniontown ARC W3PIE, and Skyview RS K3MJW own property; Nittany ARC W3YA has a 99 year lease on their mountaintop K3HKK VHF contest site [original home of the 146.76 repeater] — and I know there are many, many others around the country and the world). Find out some of the benefits, problems, and costs — utility bills, parking lot and road access maintenance, building upkeep, taxes, to name a few. Don't forget about some of the political costs too — how would the neighbors like a ham club (and it's antennas) in their back yard? What about parking for club members and guests? How about keeping the place open all night during major contests or other operating activities?

And don't discount the effect from less than friendly neighbors... for example, ask Steel City about the days when the neighbors complained about the grounds being a dump, because many of them used the site AS a dump (nothing like driving up and finding an old broken refrigerator or picnic table or other trash left in the middle of the parking lot).

Then there's the issue of what type of location to buy. Every day, open land that might be available in Allegheny or northern Washington Counties for a club house changes hands, becomes more expensive, or just ceases to exist. You can still find sites in the area consisting of more than enough acreage for a building and for parking, outlying buildings, and antennas. But they get fewer every month. And many farm or former farm sites are being rezoned for homes and townhouses (just look at the former 100+ acre sheep farm across the street from Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Hills — and look soon, because they're grading land now and plan to put homes there starting in the spring). Further, the days or renting an isolated site on state lands for a token payment are long gone. Too many businesses want those sites for towers, repeaters, whatever — and are willing to pay for it handsomely (money the State of Pennsylvania will gladly take!). And nowadays, even if you could find a site like this, you run the risk of environmental activists who would raise a fuss and then some. But worse, a clubhouse on such a location might be too isolated to use on a regular basis, and would create it's own security concerns (what good is a clubhouse that has no equipment in it because you're afraid of it being stolen?)

So, finding a location and figuring out how to pay for it (on the spot and for the long term) is, at best, challenging. You could easily be talking about \$250,000 or more just to buy the property and build or remodel on it... and that's, again, assuming you can find the right spot and get all the zoning clearances and such. And a trust fund to cover the long term taxes and maintenance costs could be 4 or 5 times as much or more. Last time I checked with N3RDV, I don't think we have quite enough in our band account right now...

So pragmatically, unfortunately, I don't see a clubhouse in our immediate future, baring a minor miracle or three. But it still can be fun to speculate on.

Let's say, for the sake of argument, the funds magically became available, at least enough to buy and build/renovate a station. (Anyone ever talk to Donald Trump about becoming a ham? How about Bill Gates?) What type of clubhouse would you like to see?

I'd like to think that we'd need a meeting room area, a small office area, a small kitchen area, and at least one operating studio or area for equipment. With our mix of members, we'd need both HF and VHF operating positions, and some appropriate antennas. So what fits this bill?

Some potential locations that might become available might include former homes of fraternal or veteran organizations (ie Elks, Moose, VFW, American Legion etc.) that are no longer used for any one of a number of reasons. But odds are that these locations are older buildings that might need some major maintenance, and parking and antenna room might be a factor.

Others on the same lines might be former churches or schools. However, most of the area which we draw membership from don't have that many of these to spare

in the first place. These don't become available all that often, and other groups often vie for them. Besides, both of these might have too much room — what do you do with all the empty space, rent it out?

But buying a commercial building has some possibilities. It would let us retain more than enough space for a shack or two, for a meeting room, and so forth. Plus control of a decent sized rooftop gives us space for a small tower or two, possibly even some wire antennas. Parking might be an issue depending on what the building has available, so let's assume that it's already more than adequate. Renting out the bulk of the building should generate more than enough income to cover the club's routine costs, building maintenance, and something left over. The down side, of course, is that if enough space isn't rented out, costs to the club become an issue again; there are always maintenance and liability issues. And while the club would have 24 / 7 / 365 access, you would have some security concerns with all those tenants employees around.

But keep the building smaller with fewer tenants... you wouldn't need many. How about an ice skating arena? With the interest in hockey abounding in the area (NHL lockout notwithstanding) there is a demand for arenas. The buildings and parking lots can be huge. And many are also open 24 hours or close too it, so again there would always be someone around. And what better venue to attract future hams than high school hockey fans streaming in and out of the building for games and practice? (that's a rhetorical question, don't answer that!) *Blade Runners* in Bethel Park might be available (they did once offer to sell out to the people who eventually built the Castle Shannon Ice Arena, but that may have been a political ploy to block the IA from being built... and that's another story altogether).

Other businesses come to mind, too. Places that would have a lot of parking available, plenty of room for a meeting room and permanent station location, and most likely able to generate more than enough income to pay the bills and put a few bucks in the club's pocket, too. A self-storage place would be almost ideal (except perhaps for parking) and would be available 24/7. A bowling alley, in the right size building and/or location, would also provide plenty of office space both for the club to use and potentially to rent out. A bus station or depot would provide these, and give us plenty of opportunity to advertise Amateur Radio and the club to large segments of the public, although bus traffic is not what it once was. Unfortunately, the railroads don't run too many passenger stations anymore (pity, imagine running a 160 M long wire down the track for a few miles!) and at least in our area are often not in high places. Sadly, an airport terminal is not an option... not with the necessary antenna tower and other restrictions around airport runways.

But the best possible option might be to buy an existing restaurant. Think about it... just take over some unused or available office or storage space for the shack(s). Again, the roof and parking lot is available for antennas. Meetings could be held in a private dining area — one with a fire place would be nice! (To say nothing of providing a good incentive to going back to bi-monthly meetings, although it might put a dent in the annual club picnic!)

And when we're not meeting, a good establishment could make a very tidy profit. To say nothing of the exposure we could get from a popular restaurant with a large clientele that visits frequently. Of course, the downside here is that we might have to watch our food intake during contests or other operating activities, but that too is manageable!

So, following these ramblings along to their logical conclusion... If the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** ever got more than enough spare funds to buy a clubhouse or other permanent shack & home to call our own, our only viable option is actually quite simple:

We need to purchase as our new home *Al's Café!*

Why We Need Logbook of the World or Something Like It:

"The mystery of what became of the late Gus Browning's DXpedition logs has been solved. Gus lived fairly close by and I managed to locate his daughter several months ago, and she looked into the matter.

After Gus died in 1991, his wife sold the house, but gave everybody a chance to get whatever they wanted. She remembers the logbooks in several boxes by the door, even thumbed through several of them. Apparently nobody picked them up though, and the new owners trashed them. An all too common answer to this question..."

—Tom Johnson N4TJ

True Ham Tales (Stories You May or May Not Believe) Where Do Hams Live?

Compiled & Edited by Don Merz N3RHT, Used With the Editor's Permission

"When I was living in a dorm at the University of Montana in Bozeman, MT in 1960 or thereabouts, I put up an antenna made out of #36 black enameled wire. It was exactly 66 feet long and ran from a third floor window of a friend's dorm room to a stairwell window in the next building. We used a couple of bits of 1/2" diameter polystyrene rod with holes drilled in the ends for insulators. You had difficulty seeing the insulators too.

We had moved a BC-610 up into my friend's third floor room, with the assistance of a friendly janitor and the freight elevator. The 66' end fed wire worked beautifully, and no one even saw it until one frosty morning we woke up to find it about 2" in diameter with frost. We just snapped it at our end and let it fall. Then put it back up that night.

Our first try at an antenna was a military tank whip, about 15 feet long, stuck into the thumb hole of a bowling ball, and leaning out of the window. It reached about up to the middle of the dorm room window on the floor above us.

When we first tried to load that short antenna, we got a corona ball about 2 feet in diameter off the end of it. The fellow in the room above us went totally ballistic when he saw it that night. I think he thought it was a UFO or something. In the meantime, we quickly took it out of the window and laid low for awhile.

Plus, the RF did something to the bowling ball too. It partially melted the thumb-hole and made the bowling ball stink so badly after that that the owner had to leave it out in the hall so he and his roommate could get some sleep.

When we first fired up the BC-610, it had a short in the +HV and blew out the main breaker for the entire dorm. We laid low for a week after that one too. Then when we finally did get it fixed, the relay that is supposed to short out the modulation transformer didn't work and we had really TERRIBLE key clicks on CW until we took care of it by simply putting a big jumper wire across the appropriate connections on the modulation transformer. We didn't have a speech amp so never operated phone anyway. We used that thing for a year or so. Lots of fun!"

— Kenneth G. Gordon W7EKB

(KR3P Continued from page 1)

responded, and the matter was left unresolved when KR3P ceased responding to emails.

KR3P also accused club members of not owning an ARRL Repeater Directory for 15 years, or of lacking Internet access. He then listed currently coordinated repeaters using the "local option" frequencies, stating that most had been coordinated for 15 years. And he informed us that we should have checked both a repeater directory and the WPRC home page for coordinated repeaters, as they are all listed there, "including yours." (Note: **WASH** does not own any repeaters, although three local repeaters owned by club members are affiliated with it.)

In conclusion, KR3P put us on "official notice" from the WPRC that he expects the 2006 and future contests to limit our use of simplex frequencies to the "approved simplex frequencies per the ARRL and WPA bandplans: 146.535—146.595 and 147.525 to 147.585 MHz." He also "specifically" requests a retraction of "your accusation" that the WPRC band plan differs from the ARRL band plan, and requests that this retraction be included in the 2006 contest rules.

The email was discussed at length at the January **WASH** club meeting, and an response on behalf of the club from Kevin N3HKQ will be forthcoming.

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

Bob Olsen KK7WN courtesy of www.eHam.net

A short time back, an eHam reader raised a question as to the geographical dispersion of U.S. Hams. A few responders speculated that greater proportions might be older and retired and thus in locations such as Florida and Arizona. Others suggested that most were probably in the more densely populated states. This issue piqued my curiosity and so I collected information on the number of Hams by state and some other relevant census information. After engaging in some statistical computations, I can report the following:

1. As would be expected, the most populous states have the largest absolute numbers of Hams. For example the largest proportion of the U.S. Ham population is in California (14%), Texas (6%), Florida (6%), New York (4%), and fewest are in the states of Vermont, the Dakotas, and Wyoming (about 0.2% each).
2. On average, across all states, Hams comprise about 0.25% of a state's population. That is, Hams make up about one quarter of one percent of a state's population. When you think about it, how many other hobbies have such a large relative following?
3. The relative percentage of Hams per state (Number of Hams/State population) varies by attribute as follows:
 - a. The higher the state median educational level, the greater the percentage of Hams.
 - b. The lower the median state population age, the greater the percentage of Hams.
 - c. The lower the population density of the state, the greater the percentage of Hams.
 - d. State personal income levels do not appear to be related to relative Ham population levels.

The most surprising finding to me was that Hams are a significantly greater proportion of a state's population in those states that are least densely populated. For example, the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and West Virginia have about twice the percentage of Hams per citizen as the rest of the states.

The median population density in these states is 36 people per square mile relative to the U.S. median of approximately 87 per square mile. This greater "Ham density" might be due to factors such as antenna considerations, operating conflicts, or maybe just a felt need to stay in touch, on the part of the population that lives in the more mountainous "hinterlands" of the U.S.

The fact that relative Ham population is not related to income level is not too surprising given that the cost of the hobby is moderate. Think how much more expensive it is to play golf, have a fishing boat, etc.

Sure, the initial outlay may look large, but assuming that you don't have to buy a new rig very often, the cost per year is quite reasonable.

Finally, Hamming appears to be a young adults game. Looking at Ham percentages by age, it is clear that young adults make up a larger relative proportion of the Ham population. In particular the largest relative proportion of Hams is in the 25 to 50 age group as opposed to the 50 to 75 age group or the under 25 group.

Alpha Radio Products LLC has announced an agreement with CrossLink Inc and Alpha/Power Inc to take over production and support of the Alpha/Power line of linear amplifiers and related products.

A January 20th Alpha Radio Products press release says Alpha/Power will return to its roots and dedicate itself solely to providing high-power RF equipment



"for the professional and serious amateur markets." CrossLink acquired the linear amplifier manufacturer in late 2000. Alpha Radio cited "declining business prospects for CrossLink" for making the ownership change necessary. Alpha Radio President Molly Hardman WØMOM, assured all current Alpha amplifiers owners that their warranty and service needs will be met. The company says it will continue to employ "the same excellent technicians and assemblers" and manufacture and service its products in the current Boulder, Colorado, location. Chief Engineer Gordon Hardman WØRUN, said Alpha Radio will focus on better control, interface and support components for its amplifiers while leaving primary tube-related components "unchanged and true to their heritage."

The Old Man

Dan Metzger K8JWR courtesy of www.eham.net

The guy they called The Old Man? Sure, I knew him. Well, it wasn't actually me — it was my buddy, Al. I think his family knew him from way back. However it was, three or four times during our sophomore and junior years of high school Al called me to say that he had been invited to The Old Man's shack because he "wanted to talk" - and would I like to come along.

The Old Man's shack was a two-car garage, partitioned into operating room, workshop, and storage area in about the proportions of 1-to-2-to-3. His rig consisted of three six-foot relay racks full of what appeared to be home-brew exciters, amplifiers, modulators, and power supplies. The rig was dark and silent, and he never turned it on while we were there. In fact, I never heard him on the air, and later, when I got home and looked up his call in the Call Book, it wasn't there.

His receiver, a Collins 75A-2, was always on, with CW signals mumbling softly in the background. Once, while The Old Man was rummaging in a junk box, I reached for the tuning knob to get the feel of this paragon of receivers, and he put me in my place with a curt, "Please don't monkey with the receiver."

Well, The Old Man had said he wanted to talk, and talk he did — for nearly two hours. He regaled us with stories of how the Radio Inspector had threatened to confiscate his spark transmitter one Friday back in '24 because he was interfering with Great Lakes shipping traffic, and by the next Monday he had his first vacuum tube rig on the air. He told of being an engineer at a local radio station in the '30s and climbing a 200-foot tower in the wintry darkness to make an antenna repair in time for Amos and Andy. We heard how he was in the South Pacific during World War II, training island natives who didn't know a word of English to copy code by rote memory: dot-dash, write an A; dash-dot-dot-dot, write B; and so on. His eyes sparkled as the names of hams and radio men he had known rolled off his tongue by the dozen, and he seemed to expect that we should know these people as well as we knew our classmates in school.

Finally, he wound down and said, "Well, this is boring to you. Now, how would you boys like some radio parts, on the square?"

Al managed to say, "Sure!" but I could only hope that The Old Man read the wide grin that broke out on my face as a "Yes!" That first visit he gave me a power supply for my VFO. (I had just gotten my general.) It used a type 80 rectifier, so it must have been from the early '30s or late '20s. I had ridden my bike over, and it was a real struggle to keep that bulky thing under my left arm while managing the bike with my right.

By the second visit Al was driving, and we made sure the trunk was cleared out before we came. Good thing, too, because that time he gave me an old Hallicrafters AM transmitter; it must have been three feet wide and weighed over a hundred pounds. On other visits we came away with antenna tuners, microphones, transmitting tubes, and 500-watt power transformers.

He mentioned that the transformer secondary was 900 volts RMS, and when I asked him what "RMS" meant, The Old Man practically exploded: "How can you do anything in radio if you don't know what RMS means?" So he sat me right down and explained it to me, and even though I was still a little shaky on the details I told him that I understood it perfectly, Yes Sir!

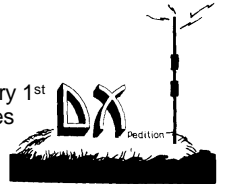
Well, that's about all. We were supposed to see The Old Man again one Saturday in late May, but Al got a call on Friday that they'd taken him to the hospital, and a few days later we heard that he'd died. What with school and me starting my first job about then, I never did find out what happened to his garage full of stuff and that untouchable 75A-2.

Say, look — I've got to be getting home. The kid across the street is into computers, and I told him that if he'd come over after supper I'd give him my old PC, and a modem and some other junk. It's funny — that kid comes over and gets me talking, and he don't leave for maybe two, three hours. I was telling him about my first computer, an Apple II, and I don't think he'd ever heard the name of Steve Wozniak before. And he didn't know what TTL levels were! Now, how's he going to do anything in computers if he doesn't know what TTL levels are?

Ray G3NOM / HSØZDZ is in a Bangkok hospital following his major heart attack a few weeks ago. His recovery includes open, bright intelligent eyes, facial movements (often in response to people speaking to him), and left hand squeezing — likely under his will. He has a tube in his throat, so we do not know if he can speak. This represents a remarkable recovery and hope for the future. Message can be sent to him via his qrz.com address.

— Charles Harpole K4VUD

DX News Briefs



The King of Nepal dismissed the government on February 1st and declared a state of emergency. Communication lines were cut, air line flights were diverted, civil liberties were curtailed, portions of the nation's constitution were suspended, and existing Amateur Radio stations in 9N went off the air until further notice (although there have been reports of at least one 9N station QRV after this news release)— news reports via KF2TI

The Peter I 3YØX trip has been delayed a few weeks. Repairs to the ship were not completed on time. The team now plans to meet in Chile on February 8th and sail on or about the 10th. It should take 6—7 days to reach the island, and they still plan a full 2 weeks in operation on arrival — N1DG

CT1APE, CT1FFU & CT2GLO will be active from Sao Tomé & Príncipe as **S9RI** from February 20th—26th. They will be QRV on 160 — 6 meters on SSB, CW, RTTY & PSK31 QSL Manager(s) TBA — CT1EEB

W2SC will be active as **8P9JG** from February 15th—21th. Activity will be CW only on non-WARC bands. He will also be QRV as **8P5A** in the ARRL DX CW Contest. QSL via NN1N — OPDX

G3XAQ & G4EDG are now QRV as **C56C** through February 10th. The operation will be CW only. QSL via G3SWH — G3SWH

Look for **FR/F5TNI** QRV now through February 21st from Reunion, followed by one week as **3B8/F5TNI** from Mauritius. Activity will be primarily CW with a little RTTY, possibly some PSK31. QSL, direct or via bureau — F5TNI

Look for **FS/K9EL** February 16th—26th. He will be QRV 10—80 (no 160) CW & SSB only, and plans to operate in the ARRL DX CW contest — K9EL

There are reports that AH6NF will be working on Palmyra now through February 18th. She plans to be QRV in her spare time as **AH6NF/KH5** on 40 — 10 meters, mainly SSB with some PSK31 — OPDX

YB9BU & others will be QRV as **YB7M** from Moreses Island March 9th—14th. QSL via YB9BU — IZ8CCW, Mediterraneo DX Club

N2NB will be QRV as **VP2MDY** February 24th through March 8th, 160—6 meters, including PSK31. QSL via N2NB — N2NB

W1LR and W4WX will also be QRV as **VP2MHS & VP2MHX** February 24th through March 2nd. QSL VP2MHS via W1LR, VP2MHX VIA W4WX — W4WX

K7ZD is the manager for **5K5Z**, who is using **HK1AR** in future contests. He still has logs for **3B9R** (1999) and **C56V** (1993) — K7ZD

QSL **K7K** Kure 1997 direct via AHØW, not KE7LZ — KH7U

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

If you work **DU1ABC** and the op gives the name "Zoltan," you've worked a pirate. Don't bother with QSLs as they are being trashed. The real DU1ABC is Japanese and he does QSL — DU1/N6PHX

QSL Routes

3B8MM via DL6UAA — W3SB	S79RJ via J7RJ — W2IRT
5K5Z via K7ZD — JJ1BDX	S9LA via LA2N — RA3SL
5R8FU via SM5DJZ — W9IXX	S9SS via N4JR — KZ2I
5WØDL via K8AA — UA6JD	ST2T via S57DX — 9K2HN
5Z4DZ via PC1A — KC5YKX	T42D via K8SIX — VA7EWK
6W7RV via F8CMT — W2IRT	T3ØZF via DK2ZF — RA3SL
7WØAD via EA4URE — W9OL	TJ3SP via DL7DF — KF3AA
8Q7TV via F6BEE — RA3SL	TR8CA via F6CBC — W2IRT
9J2BO via G3TEV — W3SB	TY5M via PA7FM — WA9YYY
9S1X via F2YT — RA3SL	TZ6RD via EA4URE — W9OL
C91Z via ZS6WPX — W2IR	V73WJ via JA6WJL — JJ1BDX
CN29V via EA7FTR — W9OL	VP2ENK via DJ8NK — W3SB
CO8LY via EA7ADH — AD6ST	VP2MQQ via W8QID — W2IRT
EI2PM via EI5IF — KF3AA	VP5X via OH3RB — VA7EWK
FM5CJ via F5CWU — W3SB	XE1UN / XF3T via N1NK — N1NK
J48Z via DL2BW — W9OL	XT2MF via KC7V — UA6JD
JW6YEA via LA9VDA — RA3SL	YA7M via DL1JJI — JJ1BDX
KZ5LS (1971) via KW4W — W9OL	Z31PK via DJØLZ — AB5C
LU1NDC via EA7FTR — VA7EWK	ZK1SSB via K6IPV — W9OL
MD6V via G3NKC — RA3SL	ZV1R via N1IBM — VA7EWK
P29VVB via UA4WHX — RA3SL	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.



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FCC News

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

NEWINGTON, CT, January 21st, 2005 — FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell announced today that he'll step down, effective "sometime in March." Powell's resignation comes just one day after President George W. Bush's inauguration for a second term in the White House. Nominated by former President Bill Clinton, Powell — whose father was Secretary of State Colin Powell — joined the FCC in 1997. He became its chairman two days after President Bush was sworn in for his first term in 2001. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, called Powell's performance "a deep disappointment" after some initial optimism. While the League is not unhappy about Powell's departure — especially given his unabashed cheerleading on behalf of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) initiative — there's also concern about whom President Bush might call upon to replace him.



"It's no secret that we thought Chairman Powell was going entirely in the wrong direction on BPL and dragging the other commissioners and FCC staff along — willing or not — because he was, after all, the chairman," Sumner said. "A new chairman might be a chance for a fresh start."

Last October when the FCC adopted new Part 15 rules for BPL, Powell called it "a banner day." While conceding that BPL will affect some spectrum users, including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there," the chairman implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

Powell listed the Commission's adoption of BPL rules among the "policy highlights" of his tenure. "Broadband to power plugs would lower prices, expand deployment," the chairman's list of accomplishments asserts.

Possibilities to replace Powell include the other Republican members of the five-member FCC — Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a staunch BPL supporter, and Kevin J. Martin. Speculation also has been raised about various candidates outside the commissioners. "We look forward to the opportunity to work with the new chairman, whoever that may be," Sumner said.

Powell, in his announcement, said it was "with a mixture of pride and regret" that he informed the president of his decision to step down. "Having completed a bold and aggressive agenda, it is time for me to pursue other opportunities and let someone else take the reins of the agency," he said. "During my tenure, we worked to get the law right in order to stimulate innovative technology that puts more power in the hands of the American people, giving them greater choices that enrich their lives."

The chairman said the seeds of the Commission's policies under his leadership "are taking firm root in the marketplace and are starting to blossom." He cited the increased use of cell phones, digital TV and other digital technology "increasingly connected anytime, anywhere by a wide variety of broadband networks."

As FCC chairman, Powell also has been in the forefront of enforcing the Commission's rules on indecency, largely through imposing huge fines on violators. He also supported changes in media ownership rules that permitted even greater concentration in the ownership of broadcasting outlets.

Powell's formal resignation followed widespread reports that he would be leaving. *Communications Daily* said the chairman's last day would be March 10.



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.

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Thanks NØPEU for providing the site!

Silent Keys

George S. Van Dyke Jr. W3HK, 89, Philadelphia, former SCM for EPA ,
 January 19th
 Johnny Carson, 79, Burbank, January 23rd



Now in our TENTH big year!



WASHfest 2005

The South Hills Hamfest

Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 27th, 2005

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



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**Breakfast & Lunch provided
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of Peters Township**

**FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA**

MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!



- 1st Prize: ICOM IC-706 MKII G
- 2nd Prize: ICOM V-8000 Mobile
- 3rd Prize: MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer
- 4th Prize: ICOM V-8 Handheld

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00 — All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Steve Lane, W3SRL at (412) 341-1043 or Bill Hill, W3WH at (724) 746-1776

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.washarc.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
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We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



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(check quarter _____) →

(check one !)

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<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<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: _____

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

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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Members of the [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS](#) can start a new membership or renew an existing membership in the American Radio Relay League, the National Organization of Radio Amateurs, through the club. Benefits for you: Joining and participating in everything the League has to offer, including a QST subscription. Benefits for the club: A few more shekels for our coffers.

Just fill out the form below, include a check or money order made out to WASH/ARRL, and return all to the club treasurer or mail to:

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c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

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Dues subject to change without notice

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Inside This Issue:

- **WASHFest 2005's** Almost Here!
- KR3P Unhappy with our Two Meter Contest Rules!
- N3RHT's Hamfest Reviews!
- Wanna Buy a Duck, er Clubhouse?
- Where Do Hams Live?
- Cumberland PA Nixes BPL!

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



There's Something About Hank

What IS it about this picture that people just love? (Good thing that Hank has a great sense of humor!) The guilt shown here are Kevin N3HKQ, Dave N3IDH, and totally ignoring it, Jim WB4GCS!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2005 Bob Berry N3CZZ

Upcoming WASH Club Events:

- ◆ WASHfest 2005 February 27th
- ◆ Breezeshooters Groundwave CW February 19th
- ◆ Breezeshooters Groundwave Phone March 19th

The WASHRag

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