



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 7 Issue 3

March 2005

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

WASHFest - This Is It!

If all goes well, snow notwithstanding, you should be reading this just prior to **WASHfest 2005**. One last reminder...

I know, I know. We've done this so often for so long, it's almost too easy to put it "on automatic" and just coast and let things take care of themselves. (Of course, we don't do that, as that can be the start of a recipe for disaster!) So we probably don't need this reminder, but here it is anyway just in case.

We have access to the CSFVD Memorial Hall on Saturday Morning, so hall setup will take place right after the Club Breakfast, starting about 9:30 for about an hour or so (and thanks again to Steve W3SRL for taking the extra effort to get us the early access again this year). Otherwise plan on the "usual schedule" for Sunday.

So, what more do you, as a **WASH** member, have to do? Show up on Sunday and lend a hand.

It doesn't take much... some folks to run talk-in, help vendors get checked in and load, help man the admissions table, sell prize and 50/50 tickets, and at the end of the day, clean up. If everyone who comes down pitches in for an hour or two, as needed, here & there, then everything runs smoothly and everyone has a great time. (And you don't have to be there at 5 AM, though many of us will be — come down when you can, we need a little help during the entire morning!)

The weather forecast looks good (famous last words), and Pittsburgh area hams have been looking forward to this for months. Let's make our Tenth Annual hamfest the best one yet!

And photographers, bring your cameras, we need pictures for the newsletter!!!

73, Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Important Times to Remember:

- Hall Setup: Saturday, approx. 9:30 AM
(after breakfast) - 11:00 AM
- Final Prep: Sunday, 5:00 AM
- Open for Vendor Setup: 6:00—8:00 AM
- Open to the Public: 8:00 AM

WASHFest Weather Forecast

Clouds, Some Sun - No More Snow - High 39° Low 19°

Next Meeting: March 10th, 2005

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

Come hungry! This is our traditional post-**WASHFest** Pizza Night!

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

Presidential Words

I am writing this a week before **WASHfest 2005** and I am looking forward to it eagerly. I really hope to see everyone there. Please do the club a favor and talk up our hamfest when on a repeater or seeing fellow amateurs. As you all probably remember, the club meeting following the hamfest traditionally is a pizza party. That should make this meeting one of the more popular and best attended by the membership. So don't forget to mark your calendar for this coming Sunday, February 27 and Thursday, March 10, 2005.

An aspect of amateur radio that has caught my attention thanks to Paul Rupnik KB3KOT is meteor scatter. There is soundcard software especially designed for use in meteor scatter and there are designated times when hams hang out on 6 and 2 meters on Saturday mornings. With the help of an Internet site, skeds of a sort are possible. Paul will be a little surprised to read this but I am hoping to have him give a presentation and demonstration of meteor scatter techniques at a future meeting. And Paul, since I am springing this on you, I would be glad to assist you in any way I can.

On another topic, you probably saw a recent email from Pat Palazzolo about a recent visit to the Pittsburgh area by Mike Finke, the International Space Station astronaut that we made contact with last August. Although this latest visit by Mike was a little last minute for anyone to take advantage of, he will be back at the Carnegie Science Center on April 26 and next school year he will visit Upper St. Clair High School. Pat will keep us posted, particularly when the USC visit takes place for us to participate. It would be great to assemble the WASH/WACOM team that pulled off the contact for that visit.

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

Inside this issue:

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Incident on I-68	5
Eyeballing Mike	5
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:

- Mid-Atlantic QSO Party May 14th & 15th
- Dayton Hamvention, May 20th — 22nd
- CQ Worldwide Prefix Contest CW May 28th & 29th
- Breezeshooters Hamfest June 5
- ARRL June VHF Contest June 11th & 12th
- ARRL Field Day June 25th & 26th
- North Hills ARC Hamfest July 10
- WACOM Hamfest October 2nd
- Pennsylvania QSO Party October 8th & 9th

March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WASHFest 2005	2/28 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	1 Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'r' Shop Net	2 WACOM Meeting Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	3 RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	4 Elco ARS Meeting	5 ARRL DX Contest SSB RA Erie VE Test WPA Hilltoppers VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net						
6 ARRL DX Contest SSB 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest 2 Rivers ARC VE Test Ellwood City ARA Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	7 Greater Pgh VHFS Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	8 2 Rivers ARC Meeting 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 SATERN VE Test North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	10 WASH Meeting	11	12 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
				Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net		
13 QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	14 Bum 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 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 Breezeshooters SSB Groundwave Contest Horseshoe ARC VE Test North Hills ARC Elmer Net
20 Elk Co ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	21 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net Steel City ARC VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	22 Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'r' Shop Net	23 NHARC Activity Night Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	24 Uniontown ARC Net	25	26 WASH Breakfast CO WPX SSB Contest Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
27 CO WPX SSB Contest QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	28 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	29 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'r' Shop Net	30 Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	31 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	4/1 Poisson/Avril Elco ARS Meeting	4/2 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
Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Larry Comden K3VX
Ted Huf W4ZE
Activities & Operating Events Carol Danko KB3GMN
Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Ben Williams KB3ERQ
Ways & Means
Media Communications
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	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)**

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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
 (tentative)

Correction: Due to the editor's inability to read his own chicken scratch, Radio Free Bob WC3O was mis-identified in last month's issue as N3CZZ. Apologies to them both, and he promises to bring a larger notepad with him from now on!

So let's try this again:

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 W3WH, N3HKQ, W9UK, N3XFE, W8LEV, N3ZNI, N3ZEL, WO3Z, WB4GCS, N3IDH and WC3O... 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 Castle 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!

This Column is often the last, and hardest, part of the newsletter to put together. Sometimes news about club members just isn't that forthcoming. (C'mon, do you REALLY want me to come through with my threat to start running pictures of my daughter and dog in here instead?) Remember: You Have Been Warned!

March Newsletter #2: Yes, a post-hamfest 2nd March issue is planned. What will it need? Pictures! Hamfest pictures — people setting up, people having fun, reaction shots, crowd shots, individual shots... if you have a digital camera, bring it along. We'll put as many as we reasonably can in the next issue, and hopefully it will be out prior to the meeting. So hopefully we'll have the 2 meter contest results and the February minutes in that issue too!

Mike K3AIR is planning to check DXCC Cards at WASHfest 2005. This is pending the weather, of course, but the forecast for Sunday looks good (again — phew!) So if you have cards that you need checked, bring them along. (We have to have Mike earn that sandwich WN3VAW promised him, after all...)

Pennsylvania QSO Party Meet & Greet West will be at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest this year. So don't be surprised if a lot of familiar calls wander by the club setup. And yes, we are planning on the picnic again this year... and it's not too early to start thinking about where you plan to operate in this year's event!

Speaking of which there is discussion on the informal Pa QSO Party Reflector about **possibly adding digital modes** to this year's contest. At the moment, it's all just talk, but it is something else to think about. Among the discussion points include whether or not to include RTTY or keep it to modes such as PSK31, and whether or not to count digital QSO's as a third mode or as an alternative to CW. We shall see...

Many 2004 members of the Western Pennsylvania DX Association thought that the letter that they received in February was their annual dues reminder. Instead, the WPADXA announced it's decision to "fade away."

The WPADXA cited increased use of the Internet for DX spotting as one of the reasons behind this decision. Current equipment (presumably the AD8J 2 meter DX Cluster node) will not be repaired or replaced should it suffer a major hardware failure.

Thank You!
 from the members of **GS-SWPA Brownie Troop 796** to all of the club members who purchased Girl Scout cookies during January. Cookies are in, and will be distributed at the February club breakfast, at WASHFest, at the March meeting, or direct to all who ordered them

For those who missed out or who would like to get more, the troop will be selling additional boxes of cookies on **Bingo Night, Tuesday, March 1st, at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall from about 6:00 – 7:30 PM .**

Apologies: Results from the 5th Annual WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest, and minutes from the February club meeting, were not available by deadline. We hope to have those in our next issue.

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

WASHNet 2005 NCS Schedule

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

Minutes, February 10th Meeting

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

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 N3RNX 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. W03Z reported the CQ WW160 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 bucks 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 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 ARRK 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.

WASH Spotlight



Some of the January Breakfast Gang. (L—R) WN3VAW, N3HKQ, N3IDH, WB4GCS, W9UUK, N3ZNI, N3XFE

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2005 "Radio Free Bob" WC3O

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 March at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, and in April at the **Your Way Café**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads, Whitehall. 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	KB3GUZ	NØWPV	N3XFE	W3WH	Silent Keys K3EED KB3ENX KB3FQT N3KEH N3OBD N3SKR N3SRC W3ZLK
AA3FI	KB3HFP	N2QIV	N3XI	W4ZE	
AB3AB	KB3HVN	N3AWF	N3YPB	W8LEV	
K3BZW	KB3IAC	N3BSQ	N3YQY	WA3JPP	
K3JDS	KB3ICC	N3CZZ	N3ZCG	WA3RVD	
K3LGM	KB3IJX	N3DFK	N3ZEG	WB3BPH	
K3OL	KB3IRQ	N3FZ	N3ZEH	WB4GCS	
K3PCF	KB3IVW	N3HKQ	N3ZEL	WB3GTL	
K3VX	KB3IVX	N3IDH	N3ZNI	WN3BOJ	
K9LZ	KB3KOT	N3INT	N4MIS	WN3VAW	
KA3PPH	KB3LIX	N3KFD	NP2JF	W03Z	
KA3TWI	KB3QX	N3PN	N8DPW	Barbara Mistic	
KA3UPY	KC2JJB	N3QMV	W3GEL	David	
KA3WZO	KC4WTT	N3RDV	W3HND	Delmonico	
KA3YTS	KC6VLV	N3RHT	W3JAF	Color Codes: 2005 Member 2004 Member 2003 Member 2002 Member (2001 and earlier members no longer displayed)	
KB3CPI	KE3XB	N3RNX	W3RJM		
KB3DCO	KE7FD	N3SBF	W3RWS		
KB3ERQ	KE8RN	N3TBK	W3SRL		
KB3FNM	NØPEU	N3UE	W3VE		
KB3FZU	NØVLR	N3VEH	W3VFA		
KB3GMN					
KB3GMO					
KB3GMP					
KB3GMU					

Through February 22nd, 2005
 List compiled by
 Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Incident on Interstate 68

Cory K Hamasaki W4/AH6GI courtesy of www.qrz.com

January 16th, 2005 — I've been ill for almost a year and am recovering from medical treatment. That's another story. Lastweekend I took a trip. This was my first attempt to venture far from home. I was heading back to Washington DC after a country drive to decompress and get away.

4:00 PM Eastbound on I-68 in West Virginia. Well below freezing, a medium snow, large flakes. 300-400 yard visibility. Just left Morgantown, passed Cheat Lake and climbing Coopers Rock Mountain.

Three lanes, light traffic. Climbing at 50 MPH in the slow lane.

A small car passes on the left at high speed. Possibly doing 70. Much too fast for the road conditions...

Oh. Oh. Oh No!

100 yards ahead. It's tumbling. Sideways tumbling. A large blue pickup truck is tumbling over and over, 3, 4 times.

Pull over, over on the right, not abreast with the accident. Keep going, 50, 100 yards so there isn't a choke point. Off to the side. 4-way flashers on.

Looking back, the pickup is on its side.

Gotta call for help, those poor people.

Can't get a signal on the cell phone. No signal. No signal. It's always dead up here.

Wait, have the 2 meter radio here, somewhere. Where? In the carry bag. What are the repeaters? Escape-up arrow to scan. Hope someone is talking. There.

"...sssst."

"K3JEA from N3CXUsssst"

Full quieting. I hope I can hit the machine. Click the PTT to stop the scanning.

"N3CXU, I have an emergency, uh, this is AH6GI/4" (is WV 3, 4, 8? Where am I?)

"Uh, station calling, you're in the noise".

(ah, pull out the quarter wave, set the HT on high power)

"Better?"

"Yes, Q5"

"I'm at an accident scene on I64, no, I68, I68, uh, between Cheat Lake and Coopers Rock. Just saw it happen, large pickup tumbled, it's on its side, could you call the, ah, highw ay patrol. Possible injuries. It tumbled 3 or 4 times. "

"copied."

I heard N3CXU, K3JEA, W9UK, and others, conferring, This is a Pittsburgh repeater. 147.075, maybe. 911 in another state and 40 miles from the scene. Good thing they know the area.

"Go to 145.43, that's closer to you."

"Uh, is that PL?"

"No, negative PL, it's an open repeater."

I was afraid to touch the radio and lose the repeater. I spun the dial down to 145.43 and discovered that's not a "step" on my HT. I could hear them calling on 145.425. They were coordinating, calling the State Police, passing the traffic.

"No, that's not the right number"

"Here, I have it."

"OK, copied."

Back and forth, amateur radio, one minute they're taking about the game or a new radio, the next, seamlessly, they're passing emergency traffic.

"OK, we got the message to the State Police."

Copied, thanks. I'll stand by for a few minutes but this is a dangerous spot.

I crossed the highway and checked the pickup. Two passengers.

"Anyone hurt?"

"No, we're OK. Everyone's OK. We're OK."

The driver was a young girl, the passenger was an older, lanky fellow, possibly her dad. They were driving a big Toyota pickup.

Everyone's OK.

A truck with emergency lights pulled up. The driver put out flares. This one has a good ending thanks to N3CXU, K3JEA, W9UK, ...GG, and several other stations who did the real work of figuring out what I was saying, guiding me to a closer

After ARISS: Meeting Mike

Pat Palazzolo ex-KA3WZP

Upper St. Clair, PA, February 21st — Just wanted to let you know that a couple of the kids and I were able to meet Mike Fincke on Wednesday night. What an incredible experience to see him "in the flesh" after hearing the kids speak with him on the ISS! His wife (who works in Mission Control) and the celebrated "astro-tot" — the baby she had while he was in orbit — were also with him. I even got to chat with his dad! Mike is an Air Force colonel, has aeronautical engineering degrees from MIT and Stanford, is fluent in Russian and Japanese, is a phenomenal communicator with a great sense of humor — and definitely one of the most genuinely NICE human beings on (or off!) the planet. He shared some special video with us, including the sound of his baby's first cry and — Jim will appreciate this one — a sound Mike said very few people have heard — the sound of the "ship's bell" on the International Space Station (played when they change command).

Luke, the youngest of our ARISS kids, was grinning so much I thought he would burst. He ran right up to Mike and stuck his hand out and proudly said, "I'm Luke Walker. I asked you about the stars." Bless his heart, Mike shook his hand and said, "I remember, Luke. That was a great question. I told you they don't twinkle." Now, I'm sure Mike was probably able to "remember" Luke's question because it's very likely one kids ask him a lot, but because of the special attention he gave him, Luke was just floating so high I thought he would go into orbit himself!

I did ask Mike about visiting Upper St. Clair and he definitely wants to. (This short-notice visit was an unexpected treat for us . . . he was really here to visit his parents.) So, I will let you know any arrangements we make for that. (In the meantime, watch for Sergei Krikalev U5MIR going up in April. If we hadn't just been a "crew pick" for Mike, I would have been championing at the bit to try for an ARISS with Sergei, since we did the SAREX with him 11 years ago. I don't think NASA will let us "double dip," but, hey, you guys are now experts at this and we already have the hole in the school roof :-)

I am attaching a photo of Mike with the kids and me. He is wearing what he refers to as his "Captain America" suit; not "NASA issue," but something that the Russians specially designed and had made especially for him — so, as he put it, how could he not wear it? Gennady Padalka, his Russian commander, has one that has a giant Russian flag across the chest.



[L-R Luke Walker, Mike Fincke, Pat Palazzolo, Michelle Lee. Photo courtesy of and copyright ©2005 Pat Palazzolo]

repeater, and making the phone calls to the first responders.

The Morgantown Repeater, W8MWA 145.43+ came through. Everyone's OK. I didn't get the frequency of the Pittsburgh repeater. It might be 147.075+ but I'm not sure. Let them know that everyone's OK.

I wonder who the other stations were. I did not get all their calls. They did a great job. I was under pressure, still not 100% after my medical problems last year.

Lessons for me, have some flares. Know where I am, how to use my radio, how to set the PL, how to change the step from 15 to 5 kHz.

The magic of amateur radio. The old ads in Boys Life called it armchair adventuring. Gets through when cell phones fail and there isn't a payphone for miles.

It was cold on the mountain, the snow was blowing and folks were afraid to stop. The truck tumbled at least 4 times. Industrial Light and Magic has never produced an effect like I saw that Sunday. The truck was tumbling and the axis of rotation was rotating. It was completely silent.

Should The 903 MHz Weak Signal Frequency Move?

Mark Casey K1MAP

There has been pressure to update the 902-928 band plan in order to accommodate new repeaters that are operating with a 25 MHz split, while protecting Weak Signal, EME and Beacon operators.

At the next NEWS meeting, the 902 plan will be discussed and, possibly, an updated plan will be voted on. In order to be in sync, this plan will also be asked for a positive vote of the local Repeater Coordination Body here in CT.

What I have here, so far, would appear to protect us, as weak signal op's, and grant a portion of spectrum to the repeaters. Several regional Coordination bodies (Southeast, Florida, Mass) have taken action to allow the 25Mhz split repeaters already. Some of the new repeaters are very close, even too close to 902.100, in my opinion.

At November's meeting, NEWS has voted to recommend moving the East Coast call freq. from 903.100 to 902.100. Concurrently, NEWS created a committee to accomplish this move, including WA1MBA, K1UHF, and myself. This would likely take place over a period of a few years.

NEWS would certainly appreciate the concurrence, and/or comment of and from the other VHF+ groups on the East Coast that presently use 903.1.

It has been pointed out that the band is much quieter on 902.100 than on 903.100. This is mostly due to the fact that part 15 devices must be 70db down below 902. So, they stay away from the band edges. On the Roadrunner's page, WA5VJB has pointed out that the best place for serious weak signal work (read: EME) would be around 902.010. NEWS President, Tom Williams noted that noise floor is a great deal lower on 902.100 than on 903.100 at his QTH in Western Mass.

What say, folks from Packrats, Grid Pirates, and other Eastern area 902 Op's-- Should we all change to 902.100?

And, if the movement from 903.100 to 902.100 ,and/or support of the band plan is interesting to your VHF+ group, please bring it up at your next meeting, and send me the results.

This band plan will not be the end all, but I hope that it will be a good step towards maintaining an area of the band that is as quiet as we can have it.

Please send me your suggestions, corrections, and comments.

Thank You!

— 73, Mark Casey K1MA P
NEWS Spectrum Committee
CSMA Band Coordinator 902+

Here is the Proposed Band Plan, and some current users, and some other band plans listed after.

902.000-928.000 Provisional Band plan 1-10-05

902.000-.400 Weak Signal, SSB, CW, Beacons, EME
902.000-.050 EME Only
902.100 National Calling Frequency-Weak Signal USB, CW
902.300-.400 CW Propagation Beacons
902.400-.500 FM Simplex- DX, Calling etc.
902.500 FM Simplex Calling Frequency
902.525-.800 FM Repeater Inputs, 25 MHz split, 25kHz channels- 11k, 13k or 16k bandwidth, 12.5kHz channels -11k,13k bandwidth & links
902.800-903.400 Weak Signal, SSB, CW, Beacons, EME - To be vacated in favor of 902.0-902.4. Target date: 2010 or before
902.550 Beacon Freq.
902.950-903.100 CW Propagation Beacons
903.000-.050 EME Only
903.100 National Calling Frequency Alternate-East Coast Only-Weak Signal USB, CW To be vacated in favor of 902.1. Target: 2010 or before
903.300-.350 CW Propagation Beacons
903.400-905.000 Mixed use & Experimental
905.000-906.000 Digital
906.500 FM Simplex Calling Frequency (old)
906.000-909.000 FM Repeater Inputs
909.000-917.000 Amateur TV -shared-Mixed use & Experimental
917.000-918.000 Digital
918.500 FM Simplex
918.000-921.000 FM repeater Outputs
921.000-927.000 Amateur TV -shared-Mixed use & Experimental
926.520 Beacon Freq.
927.500 FM Simplex Calling Frequency
927.400-927.800 FM Repeater Outputs, 25 MHz split, 25 kHz channels- 11k, 13k or 16k bandwidth , 12.5kHz channels-11k or 13k bandwidth & links
927.000-928.000 FM Simplex & Links

CURRENT USAGE 1-10-05 BEACONS

NTMS-North Texas-On Website 1-10-05 NTMS-902 MHz Beacons - North America

Freq.	Callsign	Grid	Location
902.350	VE1SMU	GN03	Halifax, NS
902.380	W5HN	EM13kf	Denton, TX
902.550	N2NEP	FN13da	
902.990	KA8EDE	EM89ep	Xenia, OH 5W to Dipole @ 85' - N / S
903.020	WD4GSM	EM86	Mountain City, TN
903.055	WA1ZMS	FM07fm	Bedford, VA
903.055	W3VD	FM19ne	Columbia, MD
903.064	K1TR	FN42fm	
903.071	W3CCX	FM29jw	
903.076	WD4MBK	EM72rw	
903.084	Build, not installed		Colorado
903.090	K3SIW/9	EN52xb	Elgin, IL
903.100	K5RMG	EM00xb	South Texas
903.310	VE2CLO	FN35	
903.714	NU7Z	CN87	Seattle, WA
926.520	VE1SMU	FN84	Halifax, NS

CURRENT USAGE - NON-AMATEUR

902.000 Part 15 devices are required to put out 70 db less energy at 901.999 than at 902+, making the extreme low end of 902 the most suitable for weak signal & EME.

904-912 AVM Systems

918-926 AVM Systems

902.0-928.0 Limits on Amateur Usage in parts of Colorado & Wyoming.
See FCC rules and Footnotes

CURRENT ARRL BANDPLAN

(Out of date, unchanged) As adopted 1989
As listed in the present Repeater Directory

902.0-903.0	Weak signal
902.1	Weak signal Calling Frequency
903.0-906.0	Digital
903.1	Alternate Weak signal Calling Frequency
906.0-909.0	FM Repeater Inputs
909.0-915.0	Amateur TV
915.0-918.0	Digital
918.0-921.0	FM repeater Outputs
921.0-927.0	Amateur TV
927.0-928.0	FM Simplex & Links

The Big Shack

Joe Tyburczy W1GFH courtesy of www.eham.net

Perusing the "Shack Showcase" photos on eHam.net one day got me thinking. Some rather odd quirks distinguish ham operators from the ordinary mass of folk, and this "shack" business was a perfect example. Never mind the strange beeping noises coming out of their headphones in the middle of the night. What kind of hobbyist proudly inhabits a "shack"? Why not call it a "studio" or a "laboratory" or something else with a bit more class? I dug around and found out some answers.

The designation has its roots in early Marconi experiments conducted from rickety wood-and-tarpaper shelters constructed on the deck of US Navy ships. Subsequent installations were more permanent affairs, yet still separated from the rest of the crew, usually on an upper deck just behind the bridge. The small metal enclosure came to be known as "the wireless shack" and later as "the radio shack". As any old salt knows, the first thing done in a naval battle was to lob a 12" shell into the enemy's radio shack in order to prevent calls for assistance. Little wonder that shipboard radio operators were typically high-strung and jittery young fellows.

When modern-day hams talk about their "shack" they usually refer to whatever space their hobby happens to be crammed into at the moment. Some are lucky enough to have a dedicated outbuilding separate from their living quarters. Others shoehorn a transceiver into the desk space between computer and telephone. Most are neither

(The Big Shack Continued on page 7)

(The Big Shack Continued from page 6)

beggar nor king and fall somewhere in between the ideal and the make-do. I have seen ham shacks in kitchens, bedrooms, basements, tool sheds, porches, garage corners, broom closets, attics, lean-to's, teepees, and even one in a rusting bread truck.

Hams and their shacks may be ingenious and diverse, but they all have one thing in common: dreams of something bigger and better. And therein lies a tale.

My pal George harbored such expansive ambitions ever since I'd known him, maybe because his inalienable right to radio real estate had historically been trampled on and abused. As a teenager, his parents barely tolerated the beeps and buzzes of his late night DX through adjoining bedroom walls. As a young married, his ham equipment was forced to share a bureau with diapers and baby formula. As a journeyman software engineer, he pursued stolen moments in hotel rooms with a tiny QRP rig. At home, he could hardly complete a QSO without one or more of his kids using his lap as a trampoline. Disenfranchised but not disillusioned, visions of his very own radio sanctuary burned brightly in George's brain. "Someday" he promised me, "I'm gonna have my own radio room. You wait and see. It's gonna be...THE BIG SHACK."

He had coined a phrase and it stuck. From then on THE BIG SHACK was his obsession, his holy quest, the elusive White Whale to which he played a willing Ahab. It's probably what drove him to make an offer on the old house on the banks of the Saugus River. Slightly worn around the edges, it was what is euphemistically referred to in the New England states a "fixer-upper", meaning, it offered four walls, a roof, and floors, but little else. The main attraction for George was what stood directly behind it: a dilapidated garage with an upper loft that, when viewed with a certain amount of imagination might appear tailor-made for ham Valhalla. Inside it, beams sagged, floors tilted, and foundation creaked. The little building appeared to slump dejectedly in the direction of the nearby riverbank, as if undecided whether to remain standing or end its misery and leap off. But, where others might have seen a potential disaster, George saw his chance to have...THE BIG SHACK.

Once the initial fixup on the house was done, he concentrated his efforts on the garage. More accurately, he concentrated on filling the upper story of the garage with radio gear. Soon, even the family cars were banished to the driveway and all available space became one vast radio console. Multiple levels quickly filled with exotic transceivers and accessories. Shelves sagged with a phalanx of ancient boatanchor gear. Everywhere you looked there were meters, amplifiers, keyers, speakers, switches, lights, and knobs. Gear piled on top of gear as George haunted the dark corners of Internet auction sites in search of the rigs he'd lusted after as a Novice, as well as anything else that caught his fancy. He added plush chairs, couches, a snack bar, a pool table, and a shower to the arrangement. Nothing was too good for the BIG SHACK. Crowning the heap of electronics was his pride and joy, a Heathkit DX-100 transmitter. The 85-pound slab of Eisenhower-era iron was the same model that, as a teen, he plaintively pounded out scores of unanswered midnight CQ's on. Now it was back, and this time things were going to be different. Beverage antennas wove their way through surrounding foliage. A triband beam soared defiantly from a tower. Multiband verticals sprouted from the roofline like porcupine quills. Yes, George had finally achieved his dream...THE BIG SHACK.

But, as fate would have it, the final chapter of the story had yet to be written, because shortly after the last piece of gear was loaded in, it began to rain. This was no ordinary rain. It was the kind that came once every 100 years in New England. Every stream, gully and creek in the entire state of Massachusetts swelled to Biblical proportions as the downpour continued unabated for days on end. The Saugus river became engorged and rose from its banks to creep the short distance up to George's garage-shack, threatening it like a siege army. Within hours, the structure was almost half-submerged: a virtual island. Luckily the main house was on higher ground and firmly anchored to its foundation. Not so with the shack. George watched helplessly from his kitchen window as the product of his labor promptly uprooted itself!

The shack shuddered momentarily and then began to move in the direction of the river. There, it began a slow pirouette, as if gesturing a last fare well, and then was gone, carried off by the raging floodwaters, antennas and all. The Coast Guard later reported the structure had broken up and sank somewhere near Ipswich on its way to the sea.

Yes indeed, hams have some strange quirks. But, as I discovered, chief on the list is that they never give up. If you visit George today, you will notice his modest setup: a single transceiver sits complacently on the desk next to his PC. Attached to it is a rather low-slung dipole hidden among the weeds in the backyard. But if you don't look carefully you could miss the gleam in his eye as he gazes at the empty spot behind the house.

I can't say for certain, but I'd be willing to bet that he's planning, scheming, and dreaming once again of...

THE BIG SHACK!

Is Your Balanced Line Really Balanced?

Vito Chiarappa W6TH courtesy of www.eHam.net

Years gone by when we used the open wire line feed systems on our ham radios, we had a system whereby we would check the open wire feed line for equal currents and balanced line. We used what was called the Letcher wire line system test. This test consisted of two wires and an RF ammeter. It would connect this test instrument across the balanced line and walk it up the line checking if the RF current is equal.

A true balanced line should be equal in amplitude and opposite in phase for the proper balance. This will cancel any radiation from the line and the line would not radiate, just the flat top antenna.

You can make a simple test by taking one leg of your open wire and running it as a single random wire antenna. Lower your VSWR on a given frequency, say on 3.555 kHz, as I did with my check. On the first check with the single random wire, I had the wire test VSWR down to 1/1. I then went to the other line and found that my second line was 3/1 VSWR. I then changed the frequency where the VSWR would equal the same as the first wire. It so happens that the VSWR on the second wire equaled the first wire at 3.658 kHz. Sure enough I did have an unbalanced line. This unbalance can be caused by several happenings:

- The length of the flat top not being the same length
- Close proximity to another antenna, or even a building or metal structure
- Different heights of each leg above ground.

Knowing this and the unbalance, I now know my open wire feed line is radiating and can transmit vertical polarization as well as horizontal.

This test may not hamper your contacts or DX, but more or less to let you know how your antenna is going to perform. Yes, also to gain knowledge of what a balanced line can be and cannot be.

Have fun and enjoy the testing: you need not be an engineer or have expensive test equipment.

Enough Nerve, Finally

Jon Bain KC9EQC courtesy of www.eHam.net

Finally, after copying for the past couple months, I got up enough nerve to call CQ. I have had a couple QSO's in the past year on CW, but the nerves got to me and I had to give up. I can copy at least 10wpm 13 on a good day, but I have been so intimidated for fear that I will mess up.

Well, a couple days ago I got up enough nerve again and called CQ and Dave KG4TUY answered me. For some reason the nerves didn't have a chance to get to me before I realized that it wasn't so bad and actually began to enjoy myself. Dave and I had a really nice QSO, I quickly became comfortable with myself and after a couple exchanges found out that my 100 watts was quite a bit of overkill, and went QRP with 5 watts and had no trouble at all. I'm really not sure how long our QSO lasted, I didn't look to see what time it was when he answered me, just when it was over. I'm quite sure it was well over an hour, time just seemed to shoot by. After our QSO ended, I worked 2 more stations and I was QRP the whole time.

I wasn't sure how I would like CW, but I figured since I had to go to the trouble to learn it to get on HF I might as well operate that mode so I don't forget what I learned. Now I find that I am really beginning to enjoy it, it is like a mystery of dits and dahs and I am beginning to solve the mystery and actually hear a conversation.

I have also had the desire to order and build a Rock Mite, There is just something fascinating about a transceiver that fits in your shirt pocket and can get a signal out several hundred miles. Now that I have discovered that QRP really does work, and is also pretty exciting, I will be ordering a Rock Mite kit so I can give QRP portable a try.

One thing I have discovered is that anyone can pick up a mike and key it up, but in order to operate CW you really have to challenge yourself and be patient. Thanks Dave for building my confidence and showing me that I really can do it.

I just wanted to share my experience with everyone here and I hope that it might help inspire someone that might be struggling like me to not give up because it does get easier.

KP1/5 Project Team Update

KP1/5 Project Team & The Lone Star DX Association via NA5U

The KP1/5 Project Team in conjunction with the Lone Star DX Association wants to let you know that the effort to gain access to Navassa and Desecheo Islands has begun again. You will recall that Representative Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) introduced H.R. 5361 in the 108th Congress. The bill has now been introduced in the 109th Congress and its number is H.R. 298. Fortunately, it is again a bipartisan bill with co-sponsorship by Representative Richard Pombo (R-Calif.). This bill requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow public access to the islands, which would open the door to Amateur Radio expeditions.

As before and even more now, we need your help to ensure passage of this Bill in the House of Representatives. You can help by contacting your representative and encourage them to support H.R. 298 and become a co-sponsor. If you are not sure who or how to contact your representative, go to <http://www.house.gov/writerrep>. Be sure to use your 9-digit zip code to ensure that you find the right representative. It is very important to use that same 9-digit zip code in your correspondence so that your representative knows that you are their constituent. You can find your 9-digit zip code by going to <http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/welcome.jsp>. Also, remember that emails are fine and please follow up with a telephone call to ensure your request is being acted on. Insist on a point of contact for you to follow up with. If you need assistance determining who your Congressman is or your correct 9-digit zip code, contact us at KP1-5@Dxer.org.

There is another very important date coming in April. The KP1/5 Team will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to make a presentation on Capitol Hill. The purpose of the presentation is to educate our legislators about the Amateur Radio Service, highlight the importance of Amateur Radio and the vital role it plays in national and worldwide communications, and of course focus on the facts surrounding the Fish and Wildlife Service's unjustified closure of Desecheo and Navassa to Amateur Radio DXers and contesters. The presentation will take place on April 8th in the Longworth House Office Building. Your representative can contact Representative Rahall and Pombo's offices for the exact time and location. In summary, we are asking that you contact your Representative as soon as possible and ask them to support H.R. 298, co-sponsor the Bill, and finally encourage them or their staff to attend the briefing on Capitol Hill on April 8th. A sample letter to legislators, news updates and information about the KP1/5 Project can be found at <http://www.KP1-5.com>.

My fellow DXers,

You have probably seen some info kicking around about KP1/KP5 lately... yes? I would like to share just a little band width regarding this subject.

Work began over two years ago by the team that has been pressing this legislative approach. K4RT has invested SIGNIFICANT time at his own expense researching Fish & Wildlife's records on their denial of access. NA5U has put in great effort into compiling an email list. Many of you were contacted from this list requesting your help by contacting your congressman regarding this bill. We have two very influential Representatives co-sponsoring this bill. I have been apart of this team and I can assure you, it is my sincere opinion, that Fish & Wildlife Service will NOT change their decision on Special Use Permit access until they have been forced by a legal overturn or a legislative law is passed that REQUIRES they unlock the door. Those are the facts.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's ti me to fish or cut bait.

We have been given as much legislative and legal help on this as I have seen my 44 years chasing DX. We DO NOT want to miss this important opportunity to actually change this federal law. Now you might say, Glen, naah....don't think I'll take the time to email or call my representative, I already have them confirmed. Well, so do I...OM.... but the restrictive approach the Fish & Wildlife are using for Desecheo, Navassa, Fallon Islands could very well extend to Baker, Johnson and other Pacific countries that are now under their jurisdiction. Aaaah.....so you do need some of them for band countries, huh?

*Well, it is time to step up to the plate!!
PLEASE....*

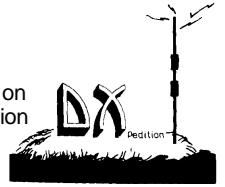
E-MAIL AND CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN TO SUPPORT H.R. 298

(see webpage at: www.dxer.org, Sample letter to congressman)

Thanks!

— 73 Glen Kesselring KØJGH

DX News Briefs



The 3YØX DXpedition was postponed at the last minute on February 17th. Team members had gathered in anticipation of boarding the boat, but "At 1 AM local time today we learned that our charter vessel, the Cavendish Sea, had not yet sailed from the port of Comodoro Rivadavia. The Cavendish Sea was to sail to Ushuaia to pick up

the Dxpediton team and their equipment on Friday, February 18th. We were to sail before noon. Because they have delayed their arrival until Sunday, and with a projected Monday departure, we have simply run out time. This latest delay on top of numerous previous delays, simply makes it impossible for us to spend a sufficient amount of time on Peter I to justify the DXpedition this year." This setback followed contract defaults by the first charter company, and then by the first helicopter company. The DXpedition is going to be rescheduled, again, for 2006. — K4UEE and KØ1R via N1DG

The newly formed "American Samoa ARA" has announced a DXpedition to privately held Swains Island. They will be QRV as **KH8SI** March 2nd—6th. The ASARA believes that Swains is far enough from Tutuila (Pago Pago's location) to qualify as a new DXCC entity under the original DXCC 2000 rules, and have applied to the IARU as a new "member society." Independent news sources indicate, however, that Swains does not meet the minimum distance (320 km, whereas 350 km is the minimum). Further, DXCC rules have been changed to close the loophole which this group has previously used to create Ducie, Chesterfield, and other "new" entities by creating a sham IARU membership society. The ARRL has indicated that Swains will continue to count as American Samoa for DXCC purposes. JA1BK and others involved in ASARA have made many protests on their web site and in news releases protesting this situation, have threatened suit against the ARRL over this issue. ARRL has posted a "white paper" on their web site countering most of the claims. — condensed from multiple news sources including KH8SI, ARRL and others.

K5LBU, reports that he is still looking for anyone who would like to join with him on another trip to **3DAØ** Swaziland. He plans on arriving on the 8th of July at Johannesburg. Daniel, ZS6JR, will meet him there, and along with anyone else who would like to be a part of this trip. The 9th and 10 will be the weekend of the IARU Contest. The only thing a person would need to bring is their paddle as there are 2 HF rigs there. The cost for the land part is \$225 per day which covers the transportation from the airport and back, 3 meals a day and your room. This is a 10 day trip. Frosty will be in Visalia with Andre, ZS6WPX, if you would like to talk to him about the trip. His E-mail address is frosty1@pdq.net — K5LBU via OPDX

G3SWH, G3RTE, ON8RA, ON4HVO & 5T5SN will be active as **5TØCW** from Nuachachot through March 4th. Activity will be on CW and SSB on all bands 160-6 meters. Propagation permitting, they plan to have at least one station on the air on a 24 hours a day basis. QSL via G3SWH — G3SWH via OPDX

QSL Routes

4L7BO, 4LØG via DL7BO — WØMM
5N9DNP via IK5JAN — K8WK
5V7VJ via G4ZVJ — W9IXX
8S4C/5 via SM4DDS — DE1DXX
9G5DX via JH8PHT — W2IRT
9G5OO via DL7BO — WØMM
9V9HQ via AA5BT — DE1DXX
9Y4BTG via DL1MGB — DE1DXX
A45WD via YO9HP — W9IXX
A52SM via SM7EHU — DE1DXX
C21DL via DJ2EH — JQ2GYU
C5ØI via EA3BT — DE1DXX
C56BT via EA3BT — DE1DXX
CS9C via CT3MD — DE1DXX
EA8ZS via OH1JT — W9IXX
EJ6JK via E16JK — W3AWU
EK8WA via SP9ERV — DE1DXX
FO5RA via WØMM — JQ2GYU
FW8FP via VK4VW — JQ2GYU
HFØPOL via SP7IWA — K1NU
HH4/K2AC via JA7AGO — K4QD
HZ11K via DK7YY — DE1DXX
IMØA via ISØBMM — W3AWU
LU3OE via EA5KB — DE1DXX
MUØC via G3XTT — DE1DXX
SK6M via SM6DYK — W3AWU
T88EA via JH1EAQ — JQ2GYU
TO2FG via F6HMJ — W9IXX
TR8CA via F8CBC — W9OL
TX9 via DL5NAM — W2LO
TZ6JA via JA3EMU — W2IRT
V26G via N2ED — KA2AEV
VB2V via NB1B — W9IXX
VP2ENK via DJ8NK — W9OL
VQ9GB via K7GB — WØMM
XF4IH via XE1IH — WØHFG
XW2A via G4ZVJ — W9IXX
YC4VD via LZ1YE — W3AWU
YE1P via YB1TC — W9IXX
Z22JE via K3PD — DE1DXX
ZK1ASQ via W7TSQ — W9IXX
ZS8MI via ZS6WLC — NA5Q

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

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FCC News

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

NEWINGTON, CT, February 16th, 2005 — The FCC has affirmed a \$4000 fine for Paul D. Westcott, KC0OAB, of Purdy, Missouri, for "wilful and repeated failure to respond to Commission requests for information about his station." The Commission released a *Forfeiture Order* in the case on February 16. The FCC reports it has received "numerous complaints" alleging that KC0OAB for several months now has been transmitting CW "24 hours a day, 7 days a week" on 7.030 MHz. While complainants assert the transmissions constitute broadcasting, the FCC contends they interfere with other amateur communications "due to an apparent lack of station control." The FCC proposed the forfeiture November 30 in a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture*.



"A licensee cannot ignore the directives in a Bureau inquiry letter," the FCC said in the November *NAL*. "We, therefore, conclude that Paul D. Westcott apparently willfully and repeatedly failed to respond to Commission correspondence."

While Westcott did reply to an initial FCC Enforcement Bureau inquiry last June, the Commission says he failed to respond to a subsequent *Warning Notice and Request for Further Information* in early September, a *Warning Notice-Failure to Reply* in mid-October or to the November *NAL*, issued by the Commission's Kansas City field office.

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has told ARRL that Westcott assured him "some time ago" in an earlier informal conversation that the transmissions were for Morse code practice, but neither he nor the FCC's Kansas City field office have received any formal responses from Westcott.

A June 21, 2004, letter from Hollingsworth requested information from Westcott regarding an attached complaint about the KC0OAB Morse code transmissions. In his response Westcott reiterated the code practice claim. The June FCC letter also asked Westcott when he had had begun the CW transmissions and for evidence that the transmissions—consisting largely of biblical text—were actually being used for that purpose. Hollingsworth further asked Westcott to address the complaint "as it related to allegations of religious broadcasting."

Hollingsworth says his office continues to receive complaints about the ongoing KC0OAB transmissions on 40 meters.

The Commission gave Westcott 30 days to pay the fine or risk facing collection proceedings through the US Department of Justice.

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

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks Again to Shawn NOPEU for providing the site!



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

Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI-4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. You must mention that you are a member of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** to get the discount rate.

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Many thanks to FYI Networks for making these special offers available to us!

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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

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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

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I would like to join WASH!. I am interested in the following type of membership: **New Membership** **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____) →
(check one !)
↓

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

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

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New Members Only:

I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

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

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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

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



Join the American Radio Relay League or Renew Your Membership through the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.



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:

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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Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- **WASHFest 2005's** This Weekend!
- Changing the 902 MHz Weak Signal Calling Frequency!
- An ARISS QSO is one thing, how about an Eyeball one?
- Incident on Interstate 68!
- One DXpedition postponed, another stirs up controversy!

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



Would You Buy a Main Prize Ticket from One of These Characters?

Yeah, that's what we thought too. Still, tickets sold out at **WASHfest** last year... not to worry, we ordered plenty more for 2005! **WASHfest 2005** is THIS SUNDAY — Hope to see you there! More details inside!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Hank Marzina KB3FNM

Upcoming WASH Club Events:

- ◆ March Meeting & Pizza Party March 10th
- ◆ Breezeshooters Groundwave (Phone Contest) March 19th
- ◆ Breezeshooters Hamfest & WASH Club Picnic June 5th

The WASHRag

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Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2222



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