



## Texas Fast-Tracks BPL

Newington, Ct, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005— A bill in the Texas Senate aimed at amending that state's utilities code to "encourage the deployment of BPL" by electric utilities has received unanimous approval from the Senate Business and Commerce Committee. Senator Troy Fraser, the sponsor of the measure — S.B. 1748 — also chairs the panel. After holding a hearing April 21<sup>st</sup> and reporting the bill out of committee, the panel also voted to put it on the "consent agenda" to expedite its passage in the Texas Senate. ARRL North Texas Section Manager Tom Blackwell, N5GAR, says the BPL bill was added to the committee's hearing agenda at the last minute "so we would have the minimum amount of time to submit input." At the hearing itself, "everything was well scripted in advance," he said, and radio amateurs' concerns about the measure have fallen on deaf ears.

"Those who opposed this and made phone calls, sent letters or e-mail or who made personal visits to the staff members or senators themselves were summarily ignored," Blackwell said. He suggests that his constituents would make better use of their time at this point by contacting members of the Texas House.

"I know there are amateurs who want their views considered on this bill," Blackwell said. "Amateurs deserve respectful treatment and consideration from these elected officials who will decide the outcome of these issues."

The committee originally had set April 5<sup>th</sup> as the hearing date for S.B. 1748, and one radio amateur showed up prepared to testify and signed a witness affidavit. Fraser then announced that the committee would not be accepting testimony on the bill that day, and the hearing subsequently was rescheduled.

As drafted, the bill establishes a state regulatory framework for electric utilities, municipally owned utilities and electric cooperatives to develop and deploy BPL systems in Texas. It would allow utilities to lease their power lines to other concerns to operate BPL systems. The measure also would authorize a utility, should it chose to do so, to recover its BPL investment from ratepayers. A utility offering BPL would only have to consider 40 percent of its BPL revenues as income in rate proceedings.

Fraser asserts that his measure, introduced March 11<sup>th</sup>, will prove "especially important to rural Texas, where high-speed Internet service is not readily available." But he conceded in a statement issued after the bill's favorable committee report that BPL "is still in the early stages of development." His bill also makes BPL secondary to the delivery of electric power and requires that BPL not affect the reliability of power delivery.

An Irving, Texas, BPL pilot project that was the target of an ARRL complaint shut down in March and removed its equipment. The ARRL's March 15<sup>th</sup> filing to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, its Office of Engineering and Technology, system operator TXU and equipment manufacturer Amperion supported an Amateur Radio complaint. The League has since withdrawn its complaint. There's been no word from TXU as to why it shut down the system and removed its equipment.

— Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

### Presidential Words

I happened to browse the *Observer-Reporter* website and found a story about a new astronomical observatory that is located near the Boy Scout area at Mingo Park. The article is located at <http://www.observer-reporter.com/284683494652975.bsp>. If I am not mistaken, it is located in the area where *WASH* will hold Field Day in June. The observatory is sponsored by the *Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh* and they have a website at <http://www.3ap.org/>. If you follow links from this last website you will find pictures of a recent Boy Scout camporee that show the location to be great for Field Day with the right mix of trees, open space, elevation, and apparently star gazing. Seeing these pictures (<http://home.comcast.net/~ismch/southhills/mstp041605a.jpg>) makes me want to see the site for myself. Larry and Rick let me know when you visit so I can tag along.



At the April business meeting we learned that our dues paying membership was up to almost 60 members. Our Treasurer Mark was a little more aggressive (politely) in contacting old members who had not yet paid 2005 dues and it definitely paid off. Thanks Mark for your diligence and persistence. (If you don't watch it we will nominate you for another term.) While it is great that our membership is as large as it is, when I looked over the names on the list of paid members, I can honestly say that I do not know a third or more on the list. Now I am relatively new to the club (member since 2002) so perhaps it is understandable that that is

(Presidential Words Continued on page 3)

### Inside this issue:

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Strange Antenna Challenge	5
DQE Gets A Letter from Riley	6
DX News Briefs	8
FCC News	9
Hamfest Announcements	10

### Next Meeting: : May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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

Mid Atlantic QSO Party, Dayton Hamvention, Field Day, and other plans for the remainder of the year are on the agenda.

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

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:**

- Breezeshooters Hamfest June 5
- ARRL June VHF Contest June 11th & 12th
- ARRL Field Day June 25th & 26th
- North Hills ARC Hamfest July 10
- Somerset Co. ARC Hamfest July 17th
- Skyview RS Swap & Shop August 28th
- Butler Co ARA Hamfest September 11th
- WACOM Hamfest October 2nd
- PA QSO Party Oct. 8th & 9th

# May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>2</b> Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>3</b> GPVHFS Meeting Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	<b>4</b> Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	<b>5</b> AMSAT/NASA Space Day WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>6</b> Belle Vernon HS ARC Amusement Park Physics & Communications Day Elco ARS Meeting	<b>7</b> CQ National Fox-Hunt Foothills ARC Hamfest PNC Park Emergency Drill RA Erie VE Test Foothills ARC Breakfast Somerset Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>8</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>Race for the Cure</i> CQ National Fox-Hunt OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>9</b> <i>Bum of the Month Lunch</i> ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>10</b> Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	<b>11</b> 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	<b>12</b> WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Mid-Atlantic QSO Party</i> <i>Armed Forces Day Event</i> 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>15</b> <i>Mid-Atlantic QSO Party</i> <i>Armed Forces Day Event</i> Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>16</b> Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net Steel City ARC VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>17</b> Steel City ARC Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Meeting SHB P & M Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net	<b>18</b> Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	<b>19</b> Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>Dayton Hamvention®</b>	
<b>22</b> OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>23</b> Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>24</b> Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	<b>25</b> NHARC Activity Night Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>26</b> WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> CQ WPX CW <i>Strange Antenna Challenge</i> Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>29</b> CQ WPX CW <i>Strange Antenna Challenge</i> OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>30</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>31</b> WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	<b>6/1</b> Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	<b>6/2</b> WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>6/3</b> Elco ARS Meeting	<b>6/4</b> North Hills ARC Elmer Net

## WASH 2005 OFFICERS

## THE LEGAL STUFF

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 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://www.washarc.org) or [www.djernes.org/washrag](http://www.djernes.org/washrag)

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test July 21<sup>st</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto: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, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
 (tentative) Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
 Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
 Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005

The last day of April saw the gathering of the faithful as the **WASH Breakfast Gang** met at the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall. This month's coffee sippers included K3VX, KB3CPI, W3SRL, WN3VAW and KB3GMN. Subjects of conversation at the table included retirement, vintage Jeep rallies, 40 years of ARRL membership, care & feeding of the club's antenna analyzer, MFJ, de-soldering, the Elecraft K1, WiFi security, VIN numbers, resurrecting a WW2 era jeep, inspections, insurance, retitled vehicle problems, accidents, the R6000 antenna, ordering IC's, thermal imaging, a Greene Co ham auction, and much more that went up in air like steam from a hot breakfast.

So if you think you're missing out on something — you are — why not join us at the next Club Breakfast? This month's is scheduled to be at the **The Starting Line Café**, Route 19 near Race Track Road north of Washington on May 28<sup>th</sup> (and if they still haven't found the keys, the back-up location is the back room of **The Country Fixin's**, on Route 980 in Cecil, just on the other side of Canonsburg.) See you there!

**June Breakfast meeting location** is to be determined. As this is Field Day weekend, we have traditionally moved the June breakfast to one closer to the Field Day site. Watch the club reflector and read next month's newsletter for more information.

**Have we run our course** with the **Your Way Café**? Since the monthly club breakfasts started several years ago, we've been meeting there on a regular basis (back when it was the **Dietz's Restaurant**). But things change, and while our Washington area breakfasts have had a steady attendance, it seems that the **YWC** group size can be hit-or-miss. KB3GMN has suggested that we try **Duke's I** on Baptist Road, for a change of pace. Is this a good idea, or should we be looking for some place else, possibly on or near a major highway so that people can easily get to it? Give the matter some thought, and we'll talk about it at the upcoming meeting (but remember, if you volunteer an opinion, we expect to see you at breakfast with us!)

**A familiar landmark** may soon be disappearing. KB3CPI let us know that the Bean Heating building on Route 88 has been sold, and will soon be replaced by a martial arts school (Harold used to own the business).

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic QSO Party** will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Complete rules (including the county abbreviations) proved to be too long to publish, but they can be downloaded from the MAQP web site at <http://www.qsl.net/maqso>. Several club members are planning to operate, either under their own or a club call — hope you do well! Think also of MAQP co-founder & first chairman Chuck K3FT (SK), a friend of **WASH**, who passed away during the 2004 Pa QSO Party weekend.

**The (U of) Dayton Hamvention Gang** should have received by now an e-mail from Greg KQ3DX listing the dorm room assignments. If you have not received this e-mail and should have, contact either KQ3DX or WN3VAW and they will forward the e-mail to you. If you still need directions to the University, contact Greg immediately. Ye editor for one is really looking forward to this year's event (wallet willing!)



### *(Presidential Words Continued from page 1)*

the case. If it is simply a matter of not having been introduced, then please introduce yourself. I would really appreciate it. If it is a busy work or family schedule that keeps you from regularly attending **WASH** functions then at the next opportunity please make a point to participate and see who else is a **WASH** member. I know since I joined **WASH**, several new members have followed.

Let us get to know each other!

Finally, if you read the minutes for April 2005, you will see that the club has authorized the purchase of another set of HF band pass filters, two SGC auto tuners, and miscellaneous items like coax and ladder line. Two sets of filters and auto tuners will be very useful since **WASH** fields two groups for the PA QSO Party in the fall and other events. The new equipment will be purchased at Dayton and will be available for first use at Field Day.

Speaking of Dayton, I will be there on Saturday so I hope to see everyone there.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ, President,  
 Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.  
 N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

Amateur Radio Operators are needed to assist in an Aviation Disaster Drill at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Talk-in on 145.15 & 442.275 repeaters (131.8 PL)

For more information contact KE3PO at (724) 832-1656 or [ke3po@comcast.net](mailto:ke3po@comcast.net)

— courtesy of Frank N3FLR

## 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

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 05/01 — Kevin N3HKQ    | 06/05 — Frank KB3FZU               |
| 05/08 — Harold KB3CPI  | 06/12 — Paul NØVLR                 |
| 05/15 — Bill W3WH      | 06/19 — Hank KB3FNM                |
| 05/22 — Bell Family    | 06/26 — Carol KB3GMN or Rich N3SBF |
| 05/29 — Michael KB3HFP | Alternate — Ron WN3VAW             |

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

# Minutes, April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Kevin Smith N3HKQ, President & Acting Secretary, *WASH*

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Smith at 19:05 hours.

There was a moment of silence for recently departed Silent Keys, followed by introductions of members and guests.

There was a motion to waive reading based on the minutes appearing in the last newsletter by Carol, KB3GMN. Seconded by Bill, W3WH second, all approved.

### Committee Reports:

Treasurer – Mark, N3RDV - read and approved.

Secretary – nothing to report.

VE – Jacque, N3ZEL - next session on April 21, 2005, need VE's to help, session will take place in the Peters Township Reading room.

Repeater – Pete/Steve/Frank, Frank - KB3FZU/R repeating well, Remote Scenery Hill, USX tower, third will deployed, electric bill \$19.33 ending 2/15, \$34.16 ending 3/16.

FM Net – Kevin, N3HKQ – nothing to report.

Public Service – Mark, N3RDV - MS walkathon 4/17, event currently has enough help 146.61 repeater, 5/8 - Flag Staff Hill; Race for the Cure, 5/1 March of Dimes, June MS 150 bike ride

Contests – Ted, W4ZE - no report

Activities – Larry, K3V X:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MAQSO party – K3VX/W3WH mobile 12 counties over two days; W4ZE and N3IDH planning to operate from home. Kevin, N3HKQ invited K3VX and W3WH to use N3SH club call
- Dayton Hamvention is upcoming
- Field Day site visit K3VX/KB3IAC will arrange a week night to visit, to be announced on the reflector.

Newsletter – Ron, WN3VAW - newsletter out today. Ron pleads for articles from members. Only 10 pages this month due to lack of articles.

Ways and Means – Carol, KB3GMN - 50/50 after meeting

President — No Report

Old Business: Mark N3RDV – membership renewal, 38 emails sent to lapsed members, 11 bounced, 3 replied “checks in the mail”, and 2 checks received; currently there are 58 paid members.

New Business: New equipment discussion; another complete set of band pass filters and 2 - SGC239 auto tuners, coax, rope to be purchased at Dayton. Motioned by Frank,KB3FZU, seconded by Ron,WN3VAW. All but one aye. Bill, W3WH authorized to purchase items at Dayton.

Good of the Order:

Mark, N3RDV and Glen, KE7FD are building software interface from kit (IC738 CIV interface). If anyone is interested in participating let them know. How about the club?

Ed, N3ZNI offered his services to check cars that will be traveling to Dayton.

Motion to adjourn by Carol, KB3GMN, seconded by Bill W3WH. Motion carried.

There was a brief pause for refreshments and 50/50, followed by a program on Meteor Scatter communications by Kevin, N3HKQ & Paul, KB3KOT.

# WASH Spotlight



After all that hard work on the Jeep (see photos page 12), an exhausted Steve W3SRL finally relaxes...

(Actually, Steve just got done scoping out the Jeeps down in the USVI down in NP2JF's neighborhood, but we won't tell!)

More Jeep photos can be found at <http://community.webshots.com/user/w3sr1>

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2005 Steve Lane W3SRL

Every month we're going to feature a *WASH* club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the *WASH Spotlight*. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron WN3VAW at [wn3vaw@njdx.org](mailto:wn3vaw@njdx.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 May at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, and 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

AA3FI	KE7FD	N3ZEL	AB3AB	N3INT	
AA3JS	KE8RN	N3ZNI	K3BZW	N3KFD	<b>Silent Keys</b>
K3JDS	NØPEU	W3GEL	K3OL	N3UE	K3EED
K3LGM	NØVLR	W3HND	K3PCF	N3XFE	KB3ENX
K3VX	NØWPV	W3JAF	K9LZ	N3YPB	KB3FQT
KA3NMG	N2QIV	W3RJM	KA3PPH	N3YQY	N3KEH
KA3TWI	N3AWF	W3RWS	KA3UPY	N3ZEG	N3OBD
KB3CPI	N3BSQ	W3VFA	KA3WZO	N3ZEH	N3SKR
KB3DCO	N3DFK	W3WH	KA3YTS	N4MIS	N3SRC
KB3FNM	N3HKQ	W4ZE	KB3ERQ	NP2JF	W3ZLK
KB3FZU	N3IDH	W8LEV	KB3GMO	N8DPW	
KB3GMN	N3PN	WA3JPP	KB3HFP	W3SRL	<b>Color Codes:</b>
KB3GMP	N3QMV	WA3RVD	KB3ICC	W3VE	<b>2005 Member</b>
KB3GMU	N3RDV	WB4GCS	KB3JXX	W8LEV	2004 Member
KB3GUZ	N3RHT	WN3VAW	KB3QX	WB3BPB	2003 Member
KB3HVN	N3RNX	WO3Z	KC2JJB	WB3GTL	2002 Member
KB3IAC	N3SBF		KE6VLV	WN3BOJ	(2001 and earlier members no longer displayed)
KB3IRQ	N3VEH		KE3XB		
KB3IVW	N3XI		N3CZZ		
KB3IVX	N3ZCG		N3FZ		
KB3KGP					
KB3KOT					
KB3LIX					
KB4WTT					

Back Issues of the *WASHRag* can be found on the web at: [www.djernes.org/washrag](http://www.djernes.org/washrag)  
 Thanks Again to Shawn NØPEU for providing the site!

Through May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
 List compiled by  
 Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# The Annual Kurt N. Sterba Strange Antenna Challenge

Erik Weaver NØEW courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

I like to share with you a special event that I have taken part in the last few years that has provided me great entertainment: the KØS Kurt N. Sterba Strange Antenna Challenge Special Event (Kurt's nom de plume used with permission of World Radio).

This special event takes place each Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30), the first 3-day holiday of the year. It offers amateur radio operators a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy the warming weather while playing with all kinds of strange antennas. As a participating KØS Satellite Station the only things you cannot use as an antenna is wire or metal pipes -- unless it is part of another structure, such as a tent you have set up, then you can fly the entire tent as an antenna!

In the past I have successfully used a wide variety of objects as strange antennas, usually between 10 and 40-meters. Band openings dictate where to play. Such strange antennas have included folding chairs, painting easels, chicken wire, a dog kennel, and the neighborhood fence. It is a ton of fun hearing the other station cry "you're using what?"

Last year while using one of my chicken wire antennas one of the stations I had spoken with got so excited he went down into his walk-in basement and turned his shop lights into a strange antenna. His signal was much weaker than when he was using his normal antenna, but he did succeed in working me "in the blind" (he didn't tell me about his shop light antenna until after we had been conversing for a few minutes).

For this special event I prefer manual transmatchers over automatic transmatchers because the manual tuners generally are able to match a wider range of impedance than auto-tuners. I believe this is because the auto-tuners are designed to match known and "normal" types of antennas, and have inherently smaller range of impedance differences they will match. Imagine the auto-tuner as a rifle scope of high magnification -- the field of vision is much smaller than found with a inexpensive pair of binoculars, which represents our manual transmatch. Which is better? Depends upon your intended use!

For those that care to inform their local media they (perhaps their club) are

participating in this special event it offers a good opportunity to generate media coverage. It is quite unusual, especially to non-hams, and is a local event. -- If there is no breaking news you should stand a better than average chance of receiving news coverage.

There are also practical reasons for taking part in this special event. You will learn quite a bit about your transmatch. Believe me, if you can tune up a dog kennel or a ladder, you will find tuning up any "normal" antenna quite easy! You also learn a lot about what may be easily employed as an emergency antenna. Following the ravages of a natural disaster this is a potentially life-saving skill enabling HF communications without use of normal antennas. If all your regular antennas have been blown into the next county, it will be comforting to know all you really need are a couple lengths of metal object, a tuner, and you can get your HF station back on the air! These ideas tie in with Homeland Security, ARES / RACES, and Skywarn activities, and more news release possibilities.

Don't overlook the importance of pure fun either! It is important to take time just to play now and again. If your club were to take this on as an opportunity to gain public exposure you may be able to capture the imagination of others. With a few handouts available discussing amateur radio, and a person designated as the Minister of Propaganda, you may be able to find a few new members for your club. Stranger things have happened!

Anyone interested in learning more about this can point their browser to <http://www.n0ew.org/k0s/> and read more about this interesting special event. There is also a free PDF "Field Manual" available that serves as an introduction to this topic as well as the fundamentals of antennas and transmatch use.

I hope to hear some of you on the air this Memorial Day weekend calling "CQ KØS, CQ KØS" and that you get a few 59+ reports from your ladder dipole!

## CQ Announces New Operating Award & Event

CQ Communications courtesy of Jim Reiser AD1C

*Hicksville, NY - March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005* — CQ Amateur Radio magazine today announced the introduction of a new operating award, the "CQ DX Field Award," recognizing achievements in contacting at least 50 of the world's 324 10x20-degree "grid fields."



This is the first of three new programs to be announced by CQ over the next three months with the goal of revitalizing ham radio's core activity of DXing, or contacting stations in faraway places.

The CQ DX Field Award is based on the Maidenhead Grid Locator system, already popular among VHF DXers and contesters, in which the world is divided, based on latitude and longitude, into 324 10x20 degree "fields" and each field is broken up into 100 1x2 degree "grid squares" or "locators." CQ DX Awards Manager Billy Williams, N4UF, has calculated that there are 177 fields with which the active ham stands a pretty good chance of making a contact, noting that many fields are in Antarctica, the Arctic or wholly within oceans.

Williams estimates that a ham who has achieved the basic levels of the traditional CQ DX Award program and/or the ARRL's DXCC program - both of which require confirmed contact with at least 100 DX "entities" - will probably also qualify for the basic CQ DX Field Award level of 50 confirmed fields. Endorsements will be issued for each additional 50 fields up to 150, then in increments of 25 fields to a final level of all 324 fields.

Contacts made on or after January 1, 1980 (the year in which the grid system was adopted for amateur radio use) will count toward the new award. Complete details and rules will be published in the April 2005 issue of CQ magazine and posted on the magazine's website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

In addition, Williams has developed an online cross-reference guide for converting countries to fields. It will be accessible at <http://home.earthlink.net/~bfwillia/gridfieldsx.html>.

*Visalia, CA, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005* — CQ magazine today announced the revival of the long-dormant CQ DX Marathon, last run in 1948.

The new CQ DX Marathon will essentially be a year-long DX contest, with stations competing to contact as many different countries ("entities") and CQ Zones of the World as possible over a full-year period, then starting again at zero at the beginning of the next year. The new CQ DX Marathon is part of CQ's broader "Waking Up DXing" program, whose goal is to reinvigorate DXing, or contacting hams in faraway places. The program was outlined for the first time at the International DX Convention in Visalia, California on April 16.

"DXing has always been the heart of ham radio," says CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, "and it continues to be the biggest thing that sets us apart from other forms of electronic communication. Healthy DXing activity is vital to the long-term health of amateur radio."

Bob Locher, W9KNI, of Idiom Press, provided the inspiration for the new activity and joined in the announcement at Visalia. "Many active DXers have noticed a drop-off in general DXing activity outside of contests and DXpeditions," notes Locher. "I suggested that CQ start up an event that would promote activity all year long, would minimize geographic advantages and provide for simple scoring. It turns out that the CQ DX Marathon, which evolved after 1948 into the CQ World Wide DX Contest, was already based on the same concepts."

Scoring will be very simple, consisting of the total number of DX entities and CQ zones contacted over the course of a year. There will be no multipliers and each country and zone will count only once. In the case of a tie, the station whose last qualifying contact came earliest in the year will be the winner.

Complete details and rules for the new CQ DX Marathon will be published in the May issue of CQ magazine and will be posted on the CQ website ([www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)) after the issue is in subscribers' hands.

The first running of the event will be in 2006.

**Forbes Magazine has printed a very nice article regarding amateur radio & DX'ing, "Ice Station Zebra," by James M. Clash WA3JID. You can read the article on-line at <http://www.forbes.com/global/2005/0509/058.html>**

# DQE Gets A Letter from Riley Somedays...

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

March 17, 2005  
Ms. Jody Noble, Esquire  
Duquesne Light Company  
Law Department  
411 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**RE: Radio frequency interference; Allison Park, PA**

Dear Ms. Noble:

The Federal Communications Commission notified Mr. Victor Rogue, President of Duquesne Light, on December 17, 2002, that it had received a complaint of harmful radio interference apparently caused by power line hardware owned by Duquesne Light. The complainant referenced in that letter is Mr. G. Robert Thacker, Amateur Radio licensee K3GT, (address deleted). Although Duquesne Light responded to the Commission on November 10, 2003, stating steps it was taking to locate the problem, the radio interference continues.

Duquesne's letter of November 10, 2003, expressed concerns about the independent assessment made of the radio frequency interference. Although Mr. Thacker was present at the time of the assessment, he did not actually conduct it. Furthermore, it was not intended to be a comprehensive Radio Frequency Interference investigation. The purpose of the independent assessment was to:

- Confirm that Mr. Thacker was being affected by interference.
- Establish the interference met the FCC's criteria as "harmful."
- Determine to the extent possible if the interference was power-line related.
- Locate the source(s) if possible. If not, to document any obvious and potential problems with utility related hardware. Although the equipment used in the independent assessment located specific poles emitting noise, it could not determine with certainty if a particular noise was the same as the one plaguing Mr. Thacker's residence.

Duquesne's letter indicated that on October 24, 2003, a Duquesne Light interference investigator conducted a 360-degree sweep at 318 MHz. Power-line noise can be heard well in to the UHF range when in close proximity to the source. However, the maximum frequency at which it can be heard tends to diminish as the distance from the source increases. Since the interference reported by Mr. Thacker is at HF, it is understandable that the DLC investigator might not have heard the noise at 318 MHz.

Most modern interference locating procedures suggest starting an investigation such as this at the source of the complaint--directly at the complainant's equipment. A sample "noise fingerprint" can then be taken directly from the complainant's antenna for comparison with other noises in the field. This technique eliminates the need make unnecessary repairs to eliminate those noises not actually causing the problem. Mr. Thacker reports a Duquesne Light interference investigator visited his home only once in 1998. The investigator did not listen to the noise at Mr. Thacker's equipment in 2003, nor did he verify the problem was resolved after this investigation.

Duquesne's letter also indicated a belief that the remaining noise comes from neon signs along the Route 8 corridor. We have carefully reviewed this case, with some assistance from Michael Martin at RFI Services and others, to best assess the probable cause of this interference.

- Based on GPS measurements, the distance between the nearest neon sign is 0.6 miles. Although interference from a neon sign at this distance is possible, it is unlikely.
- Mr. Thacker checked for noise at odd hours when businesses are normally closed. He reports he still has a high level of noise — *even when the neon signs are off.*
- Several recordings of the noise were made in September 2004 and 2003. An analysis of these recordings reveals the noise is a sparking source and therefore not consistent with a neon sign.
- Michael Martin's analysis suggests the possibility of two sources, since there are two different patterns. One source has a noticeably larger gap than the other.
- A comparison was made between the 2004 recordings and those made in 2003. It is obvious from this analysis that the 2003 and 2004 sources are the same.
- There is no noticeable trace of a noise being generated from a neon light or any other type source.

Please be advised the noise being reported in this case is strong enough to

Scott Robbins W4PA, Amateur Radio Product Manager, Ten-Tec Inc.

There are days I come to work and pinch myself, because I have one of the best jobs on the face of the earth.

Four years ago this week I had a draftsman lay out a picture of what I thought a new top of the line transceiver should look like, wrote up a spec sheet, threw in a little marketing data and handed the package over to the people that sign my paychecks.

Someone decided to call it Orion. A couple of years later, I sat in front of it for 48 straight hours en route to winning CQ WW CW.

I don't think I can begin to explain how it feels.

## Help Always Needed

**A promise for our amateur radio license is the participation and preparation for a communications emergency. Though we are in an area where communications emergencies are limited we still prepare for same by supporting the Allegheny County EOC, City of Pittsburgh EOC, The Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, National Weather Service, and others.**

**The weekly Allegheny County Public Service – ARES Net is on the 147.09 MHz repeater at 9:00 PM every Wednesday evening. This is where we meet to discuss upcoming events. Also look us up on the web at [www.ares.pgh.pa.us](http://www.ares.pgh.pa.us)**

— courtesy of the North Hills ARC web site



disrupt neighborhood broadcast radio and television services in addition to the Amateur service. All evidence that we have reviewed in this case points to sparking sources that are consistent with power-line noise. **Therefore, we request that Duquesne Light revisit this case and that you update the Commission within 45 days of receiving this letter as to what progress is being made in locating and resolving the interference.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at (717) 338-2502. Technical help is also available by calling Michael Gruber at the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). His number is (860) 594-0392.

CC: Mr. Victor Rogue, President, Duquesne Light Company  
FCC Northeastern Regional Director

*Editor's Note:* Above letter was excerpted from *FCC Enforcement Letters for the Period Ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005*— see also [http://www.arrl.org/news/enforcement\\_logs/2005/0430.html?nc=1](http://www.arrl.org/news/enforcement_logs/2005/0430.html?nc=1).

The ARRL also notes "*Issuance by the FCC of a Warning Notice indicates that the FCC has what it believes to be reliable evidence of possible rules infractions and not necessarily that the recipient has violated FCC rules... Unless otherwise indicated, all letters were signed by FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth and may have been edited by ARRL. This listing is not a comprehensive record of FCC amateur enforcement actions. Follow-up correspondence will be published as provided. Address all inquiries regarding this correspondence to FCC*

# The Satellite Beacon: Improving Satellite Reception, Part 1

Emily Clarke WØEEC courtesy of the Project OSCAR Amateur Radio Club

When investigating people who are unintentionally “jamming” a satellite (transmitting but unable to hear someone respond) the first thing we hear is “everything works fine – I used a repeater just before the pass.” Following up we usually discover that the ham is using antennas designed for terrestrial use, or using receivers such as scanners that do not have good specifications. When we tell the ham that the repeater 40 miles away is transmitting 100w or more, and the satellite 1200 miles away is transmitting 0.5w, the ham is usually surprised. So what makes a good satellite receiving subsystem?

## Receivers

Receiver specifications are important and the primary number to look at is **receiver sensitivity** as this is the number that will tell you how strong a signal must be before the receiver can detect it. Sensitivity is measured in microvolts (µ volts), and is usually rated for 10 db signal to noise for SSB/CW, or 12db SINAD (signal + noise + distortion) for FM. An excellent satellite receiver will have a sensitivity rating of 0.11 µ volts on SSB/CW but under 0.14 µ volts is adequate. FM sensitivity should be 0.22 µ volts or better (lower is better, higher is worse.) For example, the Yaesu 847, Kenwood TS-2000 and Icom 910H all meet or exceed these figures.

If you are only interested in using FM satellites there is an important caveat that you should consider, and one I was surprised to learn while researching this article. If you check the specifications for some full duplex dual band rigs (including handhelds) you will see that one band (Icom calls these left and right, others may refer to them as main and sub) may not be as sensitive as the other band. For example, my Icom 2720H mobile rig has a sensitivity of 0.2 µ volts on the left band, but 0.45 µ volts on the right band.

The important point to note here is that you should know your receiver specifications and make choices wisely when choosing a radio, and a radio's band.

## Coaxial Cable and Connectors

At UHF and above frequencies, standard coax for HF and even VHF doesn't always work very well. If we were to use an example of 50 feet between your receiver and antenna, at 436 MHz (AO-51's downlink) RG-58 will have a loss of about 6db. This means that the signal will be only 25% as strong at the receiver as it is at the antenna. Replacing RG-58 with RG-8X may help, but you will still lose 4db or more than half the signal.

Replacing RG-58 or RG-8X with LMR-400 or 9913 will get the losses below 2 db, which make a huge difference. For example, LMR-400 at 436 MHz will only lose

about 1.3db. So the rule of thumb is “Use the best coax you can afford.”

If there were ever to be a Murphy's law about amateur radio it's that the connectors on the cable and the connectors on the thing you are attaching it to will not be the same. My rig has type-N connectors but the antenna has a UHF connector on it. The first reaction is to use an adapter, and while this will make the connection, it will introduce additional loss. So it's a good idea to build cables that match up with connections.

## Antennas

There are a number of factors here to consider about antennas and it isn't just gain. Gain is good but radiation pattern (and it's inverse, the receiving envelope) is equally important. One mistake we see is that the type of antenna being by our jammer is a 5/8 wave collinear, which has very good gain (typically 8 db or better) and a narrow envelope. The problem is that the antenna is mounted vertical and the radiation pattern is horizontal, so 50% of the envelope is under ground. This is good for ground based repeaters, but really defeats the purpose for satellites as it will only receive the satellite when it is very low on the horizon.



One solution is to use an antenna that raises the envelope above ground and is rounder. Eggbeaters, quadrafilar helix and discone antennas work, but the tradeoff is gain. The rounder the pattern, the lower the gain and pattern is omni-directional. So in addition to receiving the satellite an omni will receive noise from other sources. In a suburban neighborhood this can be a problem. While an omni-directional

antenna may eliminate the need for rotators, one should really consider the best solution.

A yagi antenna with an az-el rotator is always the best solution because the antenna is pointed directly at the satellite, but may not always work depending on where you live. If you absolutely have to be omni-directional make sure you have one that has a pattern that is higher than ground level, not below it.



## Methods to Shunt Feed a Tower

Hal Williams N6TZ [n6tz@arrl.net](mailto:n6tz@arrl.net) courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

I hope I may lend some advice to help others successfully load a tower on several bands. In the tips below, we will configure a shunt fed tower of the Monopole or Unipole design. With careful grounding and connecting of bonding points along with the use of an antenna autotuner, the Ham with some mechanical ability should be able to operate his tower on 30, 40, 60, 75-80, and 160 meters.

The tower or mast should be 40 feet to 65 feet, and the more beams and stuff on the top, the more top loading it will have to help it work on 160 and 80 meters.

The tower used for shunt feeding must be electrically conductive from top to bottom. In the case of a crank-up tower, you may require some of the following steps; and these steps should also be considered for push-up masts, etc also:

1. If you have a beam or other antenna on top of the tower, make sure the coax shield to that beam is electrically connected at the top of the tower (usually the beam is grounded to the tower and that does it). If this is not possible (like a quad), then run a tracer bare wire from a bonding point at the top of the tower section down and maybe two or three times around the tower and bond it at the base of the tower. The tower must look electrically solid.
2. At the base of the tower, carefully open the jacket of the coax feeding the beam and solder a small bonding wire to the coax shield, waterproof the cut, and bond to the base of the tower. Also, bypass the rotator cable wires with .005 or .01 at 1 kV caps to a bonding wire to the base. Also, bond the tracer wire coming down the tower if you used one.
3. Ground radials. There is no substitute for radials. Ground rods will help for lightning, but will not make a vertical work. In a small yard, put in as many of any length as you can. A minimum of 10 to 12 of 30 feet or more is just a starting point, but that number will work. At the base of the tower, bond by soldering them together and run a short lead from them to the bonding point on the tower. This bonding point is the same place you put the bonding from

the coax, rotor bypass, and tracing wires. Use a stainless steel bolt and washers and clean the surface of the tower where you drilled or used an existing hole at the bottom of the tower. Lug and solder all the wires that will be bonded, and place them between stainless washers under the nut. Use at least a ¼ stainless bolt. Don't put the lugs directly in contact to the steel of the tower, let the stainless bolt and washers be the only contact with the steel of the tower. A little no-ox compound would be nice at this junction.

4. Purchase about 10 to 20 feet of copper flat ribbon strap, available from several ham sources. Get at least 2 inch wide stuff, but 4 inch is better. Now pick a place about 5 to 20 feet away from the tower base to use as your feed point. You will want to have a weatherproof box for your feed point. You will need the ability to run coax and control wire to that feed box from the shack. From this feed box, you will run the flat copper ribbon strap underground to the bonding point of the tower base. At the feed box, if you wish to do it proper, also run some radial wire from the flat copper strap to a couple of the radials that run nearby the feed box. If you solder ground connections that will be UNDERGROUND, get a propane torch and use the plumbing solder as it will hold up longer than the 60/40 electronic solder underground. Now you have a good grounded tower and feed point!
5. Next, you will need your shunt feed. Remember the point at the top of the tower where the tracer wire or the coax shield bonded. That should be right at the rotor or at the top of the top tower section. Run a wire (12 or 14 gauge) from there down at the angle away from the tower to the feed box. This is the wire you will feed

(Shunt Feed Continued on page 8)

# DXCC Status Changes for Cook Islands

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

"It has come to our attention that the International Telecommunication Union Table of International Callsign Series now contains an entry for the Cook Islands," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "New Zealand has been issued the E5A-E5Z call sign prefix block for the exclusive use of the Cook Islands. As a result, the Cooks become a political entity for DXCC purposes."

Mills says the impact on the DXCC List will be minimal, however. "In reviewing the distances, it appears that the first 'separation' from the South Cooks likely will be Palmerston Island, which is just over 350 km northwest of Raratonga," he explained. "The remainder of what has been known as the North Cooks is not sufficiently distant from Palmerston to become an additional DXCC entity."

Mills says the main effect of the change will be for Palmerston to count for North Cooks instead of South Cooks. The change also may clarify a situation with the North Cooks. "Since the addition of the Manihiki Islands (North Cooks) in January 1959 was not based on a specific distance, Palmerston has counted as South Cooks," he said. "DXCC Rule 5a comes into play now, keeping both North and South Cooks on the list, but moving Palmerston to the North Cooks because it is more than 350 km from the South islands and becomes the first separation."

Under the circumstances, Mills said, it might now be appropriate to rename the entity "Palmerston and the North Cooks."

**Two of the Dayton Hamvention Forums will be changing location this year. The Antenna Technology Forum, originally scheduled for Friday, May 20, in Room 1 of the Hara Arena and the Contesting Forum, originally scheduled for Saturday, May 21, in Room 4 of the Hara Arena, will now be held Saturday afternoon in the Van Cleve Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. The Antenna Technology Forum will be held from 12 noon to 2:30 PM, and the Contesting Forum will begin at 2:30, running until 5:00 PM**

— Doug Grant K1DG

*(Shunt Feed Continued from page 7)*

this UNIPOLE or MONOPOLE Vertical; or do you want to picture this as a "half of a folded dipole" standing on end.

- Now to match and feed. The easy way for 100 Watt operation is to place inside the weather proof box an automatic antenna tuner. The feed will be the "single wire" output of the tuner, and the chassis of the tuner goes to that copper strap ground, and the 12 Volts DC operating voltage and control and coax lines go to your shack.
- If you have problems matching on 160 or sometimes 80, you may have to add a coil of 10-15 turns at 3 inch diameter in series with your feed wire. Use at least 12 gauge wire for that coil. But lets hope that the auto-tuner can get down to the low impedance that 160 will present. You will have to tap that coil to see just how little of the coil you can get away with, as less is better. Also, this coil may have to be switchable in and out for use of the upper bands above 80. If your tower is 60 feet or more with top loading, you probably won't need that coil.
- If you want to build your own tuner, it can be done, but I will warn you, this kind of matching project with all the complexities for multi-band operation is not for the beginner or the faint of heart. It will keep you busy and is the kind of situation, which I cannot even begin to give values for parts for your configuration. The impedances exhibited by this kind of system will vary GREATLY from almost identical installations, and there is no way to duplicate a tuner for two sites. Just plain way too many variables. I built my own tuner, but my occupation is broadcast engineering and I have a big advantage over the average ham on this kind of thing.

You can see my system at <http://earthsignals.com/N6TZ>

## DX News Briefs



A Dxpedition to Saint Paul Island is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> — July 7<sup>th</sup>, call **CY9SS**. They are planning for multiple HF & VHF modes, running 700 Watts into "salt water verticals," a log-periodic, and Four Squares on 80 & 40 meters. Their aim during the month-log trip will be "to provide a new country or band/mode country to as many radio amateurs around the world as we possibly can." 5 or 6 operators are planned to be physically present on the island at any one time. They are looking for experienced operators who are "physically able to carry their weight" and be willing to live & operate in tents. For more information, see the Dxpedition web site at [www.cy9ss.com](http://www.cy9ss.com) — VY2SS

K4VUD is presently QRV as **HSØZCW** through May 14<sup>th</sup>. QSL via K4VUD; cards will be answered by his wife, who "really loves it!" — K4VUD

The **J3A** contest team for the CQ WW SSB contest is looking for additional operators. Anticipated dates are October 25<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup> (though you may stay longer if desired). For more information contact Harry AC8G/J37K at [hflasher@dayton.net](mailto:hflasher@dayton.net) — AC8G

Frosty K5LBU and friends will be QRV from Swaziland July 8<sup>th</sup> — 18<sup>th</sup>. Look for **3DAØKDJ** (W5KDJ), **3DAØJR** (ZS6JR), & **3DAØCF** (K5LBU). They plan to be QRV 160 — 6 meters. They may also be QRV as **3DA5HQ** during the IARU contest. QSL as directed — K5LBU

All QSL cards for **ZS8MI** that have been received have been answered. Some mail sent via manager ZS6M has been appropriated, so if you do not receive a card soon, QSL direct to ZS6WLC. ZS6M (ex ZS6YQ) is very ill at present and is unable to handle cards — ZS6WLC via NJ9K

Four members of the Florida DXPedition Group will be QRV in Anguilla 25 October - 1 November. Participating members are **VP2EWX** (W4WX), **VP2EDP** (WA4ET), **VP2ECM** (N1WON), & **VP2EAZ** (W9AAZ). Each will operate a different band during the contest as a Single Band entry. Look for them on all modes on 6 through 160M before and after the contest. QSL direct to home calls — W4WX

Amateur Radio Victoria plans to activate **AX3ITU** for 24 straight hours on May 17<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ITU. The team of 16 operators plan to be active on Phone, CW, and PSK31 80—20 meters & satellite. A commemorative QSL card will be available via VK3WI or via the bureau — VK3EW

### The Sir Francis Drake Report:

5TØJL/ON8RA & 5T5SN report that the following callsigns are "totally illegal (no license issued) as verified and confirmed... by Mauritanian Licensing Authority:" **5T5AFF, 5T5HC, 5T5BAB, 5T5HHN & 5T5LCW**. — 5TØJL & 5T5SN via G3SWH (who adds that **5TØCW** is **not** on the list and can be assumed to be legitimate!)

## QSL Routes

3D2FI via GØUIH — DE1DXX	OM7M via OM3PA — N1NK
3D2XA via WA4WTG — RA3SL	PJ5NA via K1NA — RA3SL
4D71HBC via DU1HBC — JJ1BDX	R1ANF via RK1PWA — W2IRT
4S7JKG via JG3JKG — W9OL	RIØL via RUØLL — RA3SL
5TØCW via G3SWH — W3QY	S9A via OH2TA — W2IRT
5Z4RL via GØIAS — RA3SL	ST2BF via W3HMK — N5ZM
6F8IHF via XE1HPT — W3AWU	T3ØMM via AA4NN — WØMM
6OØCW via I2YSB — N1NK	TF8SM via N5FTR — W6RK
7Q7LA via GØIAS — RA3SL	TJ3FR via DL7UFR — XE1ZW
8P9NX via WØSA — W2IRT	TJ3G via G3TXF — WØMM
8Q7DV via UA9CLB — UA6JD	TJ3SP via DL7UFR — XE1ZW
9H3LEO via IK1PMR — W9OL	TM1X via F4EEK — W3AWU
9M6LSC via JN1WTK — JJ1BDX	TR8DF via F5SWB — N5ZM
9Y4ZC via DL1HCM — W9OL	V73JY via JA1JQY — JJ1BDX
E2ØKIR via HS1OMT — K14RU	VKØMT via JE1LET — NA5Q
EK3SA via DK6CW — N1NK	YL4HQ via YL2UZ — JJ1BDX
HK3KAV/1 via K7ZD — W9OL	VP8RAF via MMØBUL — DE1DXX
41V via SV1CQN — W2IRT	VJ1K via N6AWD — K9RT
J88DR via G3TBK — W6RK	XF3T via N1NK — W3AWU
LO7H via EA7FTR — RA3SL	YI9VC via N3ST — W9OL
LR4D via LU4AA — W3AWU	ZK1UFF via LA5UF — JJ1BDX

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





# WASH Classifieds

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

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**Satellite Equipment Available:** "A good friend of mine in VA is getting out of the satellite business. He has for sale a Yaesu FT-736 2 m /70 cm satellite rig (I've used this particular rig, it's in excellent shape!), and a pair of matching antennas. I don't (yet) have prices, but if you're interested, let me know." — Jim Sanford WB4GCS [wb4gcs@amsat.org](mailto:wb4gcs@amsat.org)

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# FCC News

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

**NEWINGTON, CT, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005** — Now off the air and in federal custody, reputed Los Angeles -area repeater jammer and former Amateur Radio licensee Jack Gerritsen will have to put up \$250,000 in cash or property to gain his release while awaiting further court action. Acting on a criminal complaint, FBI special agents, accompanied by personnel from the FCC Los Angeles Field Office, arrested the 68-year-old Gerritsen without incident early May 5 at his home in Bell, California. Federal agents also seized Gerritsen's radio equipment.



"A criminal complaint filed Wednesday afternoon charges Gerritsen with a felony charge of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license," said a May 5 statement from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. "The two charges carry a potential penalty of 11 years in federal prison." A criminal complaint contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime.

Assuming that Gerritsen is able to make bail, a spokesman in the US Attorney's office said it would be several days before the necessary paperwork is ready. Once released on bond, Gerritsen would be subject to home detention and barred from possessing any radio equipment, the spokesman said, adding that Gerritsen's residence would remain subject to search to make sure.

Unless Gerritsen is indicted beforehand, a preliminary hearing in the case is set for May 25<sup>th</sup>, with arraignment to follow on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The criminal complaint said an FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen "often transmits his prerecorded political messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time, often making it impossible for licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies."

Gerritsen already faces a total of \$52,000 in FCC-imposed or proposed forfeitures for alleged interference. In March, the FCC denied a *Petition for Reconsideration* and upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. Gerritsen has yet to pay the forfeiture.

An FBI affidavit sworn out this week in advance of obtaining a search warrant of Gerritsen's residence indicates that FCC agents have been investigating multiple instances of unlawful radio transmissions and malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen over the past four years. FCC agents on a regular basis have been monitoring radio transmissions said to be coming from Gerritsen. They've also spoken with him in person and asked to inspect his station, although earlier FCC documents say he refused that request.

In addition to Amateur Radio repeater communications, Gerritsen is alleged to have interfered with Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) transmissions. The FCC also reported that it has received complaints from other government agencies that Gerritsen interfered with local and state police and fire agencies, the American Red Cross, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and other radio services. A MARS training exercise in March had to be canceled as a result of interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Earlier this week, Gerritsen, who briefly held the call sign KG6IRO as a Technician licensee and still uses it on the air, was taken into custody by Bell, California, police officers on an unrelated contempt of court citation after violating the terms of a temporary restraining order (TRO) a local radio amateur had obtained to keep Gerritsen off a local repeater. He was released without bond after being held for a few hours and was reported back on area repeaters not long afterward.

Radio amateurs on the West Coast have been complaining for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los Angeles-area repeater owners have taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Five years ago, Gerritsen was convicted in state court of interfering with police radio transmissions and sentenced to 38 months in prison. Following his release in July 2003, the FCC soon began receiving complaints about Gerritsen's activity on the airwaves, according to this week's criminal complaint.

Yang's office said the FBI "received substantial assistance" from the FCC in the case.

According to the Radio Society of Great Britain, Guinness World Records Ltd has awarded a certificate to Finnish radio amateur Jukka Heikinheimo OH2BR, for a record number of contacts made by an individual from one location in one year. Operating as VP6BR from Pitcairn Island, OH2BR made 56,239 contacts between January 25 and April 21, 2000

— courtesy ARRL

# **51<sup>st</sup> Annual Breezeshooter's Hamfest**

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Sponsored by the Breezeshooters**

**Butler Farm Show Grounds / Roe Airport, State Route 66, Butler PA**

**(The Farm Show Grounds are West of Butler between Butler and Evans City)**

**Talk-In on W3UDX/R 147.360+ Repeater**

**Prize Tickets \$2.00 Each, 3/\$5.00, 7/\$10, 15/\$20**

**For more information & updated list of 2005 Hamfest Prizes please go to**

**<http://www.breezeshooters.net/hamfest/hamfest.htm>**

## **Seventh Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest**

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 from approximately 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**

**At the *WASH* Location Somewhere in the Flea Market**

***(Look for us in the vicinity of the Grandstand — the Hex Beam will be up, weather & location permitting!)***

**Spend the morning meeting your fellow WPA & Regional Hams, buying or selling stuff & dodging roving golf carts full of Breezeshooters — then join your fellow *WASH* members for lunch, friendship, bragging rights, and (if operational) operating N3SH/3 from the Flea Market.**

**This will be a “Pot Luck/Covered Dish” Picnic — The Club will be providing Burgers, Hot Dogs, and Soft Drinks. We're asking everyone coming to bring a side dish, snacks, dessert, ice, or whatever they can. Contact Ron WN3VAW [wn3vaw @ njdx.org](mailto:wn3vaw@njdx.org) to coordinate who's bringing what.**

**There is no charge to attend (outside of bringing something to share) but the picnic is not open to the general public, only *WASH* members (including their families), friends & invited guests.**

## **North Hills ARC Hamfest**

**Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Northland Public Library, Cumberland Road, Wexford  
Between McKnight Road & Perry Highway (Route 19)**

**Talk-in on 147.090 MHz**

**For more information, go to <http://www.nharc.pgh.pa.us>**



# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application/Renewal for 2005



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

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector  
 I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List  
[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US  
 Age 65 or older, \$36 in US  
 Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)  
 Canada \$49  
 Elsewhere \$62  
 Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate  
Dues subject to change without notice

Additional Family Members at the same address (\$8 per family member)

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

# Inside This Issue:

- Is "The Fix" in on BPL in Texas?
- The Kurt N. Sterba Strange Antenna Challenge!
- CQ Announces Some New Operating Awards!
- Dayton Hamvention just days away!
- Breezeshooter's Hamfest next month!

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

**The  
1948  
CJ2A**



## **Before & After**

Since the Summer of 2001, Steve W3SRL's other hobby has been restoring a vintage 1948 Willy's CJ2A

Jeep that he located out on a farm in Colorado. The "before" photo shows Steve & his father-in-law just after their return with the Jeep. The "after" is how the restored Jeep looks today (but where are the HF mobile antennas?)

. More photos of the long restoration & rebuilding can be found at <http://community.webshots.com/user/w3srl>

Photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2001, 2005 Steve Lane W3SRL

## The WASHRag

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Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor  
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[www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)