



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 7 Issue 12

December 2005

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

2M Contest Is Coming!

The Sixth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest will be held on Saturday, January 14th from 7 to 11 PM EST. Complete rules located on Page 5.

There are no major changes from the last few years. One small change is that we've added "listening times" for CW & SSB users, so that they have an idea when other contesters will be in those band segments. Another is that we have gone back to identifying the FM simplex channels to use, as was done in the first year of the contest. There are a couple of reasons for this; some participants tried "odd" 5 and 10 kHz splits to work people, which resulted in QRM to other contest participants; and objections had been raised by members of the Western PA Repeater Council that our contest was intruding on frequencies that their band plan had reserved solely for repeater use, and did not wish simplex operation of any time on those frequencies.

Activity in the contest was very high this last year, although down from some of our peak years. So talk it up when you get a chance — mention it on local area repeaters, when you check into a net, or just when you run into another local ham in general!

Don't forget to mention that all entries (received by deadline with an SASE) will get a prize ticket to **WASHFest 2006!**

See you on 2 meters on the 14th!

Pa QSO Party Adds Digital Modes

Pa QSO Party Chairman Mike Coslo KB3EIA has announced that the *Nittany ARC* has decided add additional modes to the contest, effective in 2006.

RTTY and PSK-31 will be the two modes.

"We have always tried to encourage fun over cutthroat competitiveness, and to encourage modes such as CW," Mike stated in his announcement.

Each digital QSO will count for 2 points. PSK-31 will be considered a separate mode from RTTY. (It is presumed that RTTY means 45 Baud Baudot, although a clarification on this from KB3EIA was not available as this went to print.)

Each station can still be worked once per band, per mode, so it will now be possible to work the same station up to four times on each band. This is hoped to help alleviate the "Sunday Doldrums," when most contest participants have worked each other by Sunday afternoon and are desperately pleading on the bands for a new contact.

Other digital modes will not be eligible for contest contacts at this time, although this may change in the future.

Presidential Words

Ron Notarius, Dan McCann, and I gave presentations to students of Upper St. Clair High School on November 30, 2005 and our topics covered international aspects of amateur radio. Ron lead us off talking about DXing, Dan discussed emergency communications focusing on the tsunami of December 26, 2004, and I talked about an international program for student built satellites that have been launched and will be launched in the future.



If we learned nothing else, we learned that 10-minutes is not a lot of time to cover a subject! That is what each of had and let me tell you we had to keep a breathtaking pace to get it in.

Pat Palazollo ex-KA3WZP was very happy that we gave the presentations and the students were quite attentive. We also got to meet some of the ARISS students who were in the audience. After each of two sessions we met a few students with follow up questions and possible interest in the hobby. In January, Pat will begin teaching her middle school students a course to pass the Technician test including Morse code.

We may be asked to assist but at least we will need to conduct a VE session at the school. Exact arrangements are still in the works.

I look back on the year that is about to conclude and I wonder where the time went. I enjoyed being your president this year and I hope I have served the club to your satisfaction.

(Presidential Words Continued on page 8)

WASH Christmas / Holiday Party
Thursday, December 8th, 6:30 PM
at Calabria's, Route 88, Castle Shannon

Next Meeting: January 12th, 2006

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

The upcoming 2 meter contest and **WASHFest 2006** plans will be discussed, along with other topics related to the new year.

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

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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:**

- 6th Annual
WASH 2 Meter
Contest
January 14th
- WASHFest 2006
February 26th
- 2 Rivers ARC
Hamfest March
26th, 2006
- Dayton
Hamvention
May 19th, 20th,
21st, 2006
- ARRL Field Day
June 24th & 25th,
2006

December 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	2 Elco ARS Meeting	3 RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast
				ARRL 160 Meter		
4 Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	5 Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	6 Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	7 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	8 Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	ARRL 160 Meter	
ARRL 160 Meter				ARRL 10 Meter		
11 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	12 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	13 2 Rivers ARC VE Test Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtg Fort Venango M&K Meeting North Hills ARC Net	14 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	15 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	16 Quad Co ARC Meeting	17 2 Rivers ARC Christmas Party North Hills ARC Elmer Net
ARRL 10 Meter						
18 Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	19 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net Steel City ARC VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	20 Steel City ARC Mtng S H B P & M Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net	21 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	22 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	23	24 
25 	26 	27 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	28 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	29 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	30	31  Straight Key Night

WASH 2006 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Kevin Smith N3HKQ
VP / Secretary Paul Lusardi NØVLR
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 2006 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 Carol Danko KB3GMN
Media Communications Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Allegheny Co ARES Representative Ben Williams KB3ERQ

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS & BEACONS:

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

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

THE LEGAL STUFF

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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 January 19th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 19th, 2006, 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, April 20th, 2006
 Thursday, July 20th, 2006
 Thursday, October 19th, 2006
 Thursday, January 18th, 2007
 (tentative)

The last Saturday in November brings Turkey leftovers, Black Friday-related empty wallets, college football, and dreams of the long-moved Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest. But not, this month, of the **WASH Breakfast Gang**. Because of traditional low attendance after Thanksgiving, and because the December breakfast would fall on New Year's Eve, it was decided at the November meeting to cancel breakfasts for these two months and resume in January.

So we look forward to seeing all of you at the next club breakfast on January 28th, 2006, 8:00 AM, at **The Beach House**, on Library Road / Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. See you there!

Dayton 2006: Greg KQ3DX passed along the U of Dayton list as of mid-November, for those of us staying there during Hamvention 2006:

Room 'A'	Room 'B'	Room 'C'
KQ3DX	N3ZNI	K3AIR
WN3VAW	N3ZEL	K3GW
W3JQJ (?)	K3LGM	WO3Z
KA3UPY (?)	& Jane	WA3RVD
Room 'D'	Room 'E'	Room 'F'
N3KFD	N3UUZ	W3RJM
N3IDH	N2YZQ	W3WH
KB3FZU	N3SBF	
KB3GMU	KB3GMN	

Greg adds, "as you can see, the rooms have filled up quite nicely and quite quickly. I have tried to keep those together who have requested so. Let me know if this is incorrect and I will re-arrange it. There are still 2 slots left in Room 'F'. I would like to fill those 2 slots and keep everybody's cost to a minimum. The 2 '?'s in Room 'A' are unconfirmed; if those 2 individuals do not wish to go I will advise so others can get in on the action."

Money will not be due until sometime in mid-January to early February; Greg will be in touch as the time comes. Remember that once he sends the funds into the U of Dayton "there will be no refunds. YOU will be responsible for finding someone to occupy your space."

We filled 5 rooms last year, so if anyone is interested in the extra two spaces, or if you were accidentally left off the list, please contact Greg immediately. The U of Dayton rooms are one of the best bargains at Hamvention. "Spend money AT Dayton, not ON Dayton!"

You've Been Warned Before: This page (the toughest one to put together in this newsletter) needs club news & information. No news... you get pictures of Ye Editor's daughter & dog. Fortunately, this month you get bailed out by this photo of KB3GMU & N3DFK operating WA3SH/Fayette during the 2005 Pa QSO Party, but next month...

photo courtesy of and ©2005 Kevin F. DeRose N3KFD



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 2006 NCS Schedule

12/04	Michael KB3HFP	03/19	Kevin N3HKQ
12/11	Bill W3WH	03/26	Harold KB3CPI
12/18	Ron WN3VAW	04/02	Bell Family
12/25	Frank KB3FZU	04/09	Bill W3WH
	or Lorrie KB3GMU	04/16	Michael KB3HFP
01/01	Paul NØVLR	04/23	Hank KB3FNM
01/08	Carol KB3GMN	04/30	Frank KB3FZU
	or Richie N3SBF	05/07	Paul NØVLR
01/15	Kevin N3HKQ	05/14	Carol KB3GMN
01/22	Harold KB3CPI		or Richie N3SBF
01/29	Bell Family	05/21	Kevin N3HKQ
02/05	Bill W3WH	05/28	Harold KB3CPI
02/12	Michael KB3HFP	06/04	Bell Family
02/19	Hank KB3FNM	06/11	Bill W3WH
02/26	Frank KB3FZU	06/18	Michael KB3HFP
03/05	Paul NØVLR	06/25	Hank KB3FNM
03/12	Carol KB3GMN		
	or Richie N3SBF		
		Alternate —	Ron WN3VAW

Fans of the wonderful things programmers are doing with on-line mapping will enjoy the ham location application at http://www.perconcorp.com/google_ham.html.

Apparently, the database used is a little dated, but the idea is fresh - enter a zip code and find out where the hams are in your area! (Thanks, Dick N6AA and Bob N6TV) — courtesy of Ward Silver NØAX & the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2006 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!

Minutes, November 10th Meeting

Paul Lusardi NØVLR, Secretary, **WASH**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Moment of silence for recently departed silent keys.

Introductions of members and guests present.

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes appearing in the last newsletter by Bill W3WH, second by Ron WN3VAW, passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (Mark N3RDV): Read and accepted.

Secretary (Paul NØVLR): Digital nets to restart on Tuesdays at 8:30 on an occasional basis.

VE (Jacqué N3ZNI): 2006 tests scheduled for third Thursday of January, April, July and October 2006.

Repeaters (Frank KB3FZU): Problem with missing equipment at the remote site on USX Tower discussed. Electric bill for \$25.66 presented.

FM Net (Kevin N3HKQ): Corrected schedule for first half of 2006 out and will be in the newsletter

Contests (Ted W4ZE): 2 meter contest in January. Has the old set of bandpass filters still MIA been located?

Activities (Larry K3VX): Looking for a new Field Day site since last year's site at Mingo Park has already been reserved by another group. Ed N3ZNI will be in contact with the Library Sportsmen's Club.

Quartermaster (Harold KB3CPI): waiting for equipment to be returned.

Newsletter (Ron WN3VAW): Need to get some hard copies printed to mail to former active members who have been unheard of lately. See him after meeting if anyone can help.

Ways & Means (Carol KB3GMN): Christmas party at *Calabria's* next month, no meeting at the library. Cash bar to be subsidized by the club at \$40. She needs the money by the end of the month. 50/50 at end of the meeting.

Tower Trailer Committee (Randy KB3KGP): earned another \$50 from selling wood callsign plaques at the WACOM Hamfest.

President (Kevin N3HKQ): Discussion on future of the monthly club breakfast. NØVLR moved to postpone breakfasts due to holiday conflicts until January 2006, and move it to the *Beach House* in Finleyville. Passed. Several club members will participate in International Education Week at Upper St. Clair High School by giving a 45 minute presentation on November 30th. Paul, Randy and others in the process of taking Level I EmComm course, and are looking for some assistance.

Old Business:

Discussion to be held with Bob AA3FI concerning future of the club web site, it's enhancement, and control.

N3RDV will check into QST for library.

New Business

WACOM asked to borrow the hex beam for the Washington Sportsmen's Show over the first weekend in February. Motion by Ron WN3VAW, second by Carol KB3GMN, passed.

New Officer Elections:

Nominations reopened, no additional candidates. Bob W3RJM declined nomination for Vice President/Secretary. Nominations closed.

Ron WN3VAW moved that the secretary cast one for Kevin N3HKQ for President for 2006, second by Frank KB3FZU. Passed unanimously.

Ron WN3VAW moved that the secretary cast one for Mark N3RDV for Vice President/Secretary for 2006 & 2007, second by Frank KB3FZU. Passed unanimously.

Good of the Order:

- WASHFest 2006: So far it is handled; looking for prize list
- Ron WN3VAW mentioned that Mt. Lebanon Magazine had a very positive article on Amateur Radio, highlighting several local amateurs and club members.
- Paul NØVLR offered congratulations to N3ZNI and N3ZEL on a very well

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 8)

WASH Spotlight: Winner!



Carol KB3GMN displaying some of the prizes she won at the WACOM Hamfest in November. If that HT looks familiar... it's the same model that she won a while back at **WASHFest!**

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2005 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

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@njdxadotorg

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!

Because of holidays, breakfasts have been postponed and will resume in January.

Join us in January at **The Beach House**, on Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. 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	KB3IAC	N3PN	W4ZE	WASH MM	Silent
AA3JS	KB3IRQ	N3QMV	W8LEV	KA3UPY	Keys
K3JDS	KB3IVW	N3RDV	WA3JPP	WASH GA	
K3LGM	KB3IVX	N3RHT	WA3RVD	K3OL	K3EED
K3PCF	KB3KGP	N3RNX	WB4GCS	KB3IJX	KB3ENX
K3VX	KB3KOT	N3SBF	WN3VAW		KB3FQT
K3WJL	KB3LIX	N3TBK	WO3Z	WASH NE	N3FZ
KA3NMG	KC4WTT	N3VEH		NØPEU	N3KEH
KA3TWI	KE7FD	N3XI		WASH NY	N3OBD
KB3CPI	KE8RN	N3ZCG		KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3DCO	NØPEU	N3ZEL		N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3EPI	NØVLR	N3ZNI		WASH OH	N3XFE
KB3FNM	NØWPV	W3GEL		N8DPW	W3ZLK
KB3FZU	N2QIV	W3HND		WASH TX	
KB3GMN	N3AWF	W3JAF		K3LGM	
KB3GMP	N3BSQ	W3RJM		WASH VI	
KB3GMU	N3DFK	W3RWS		NP2JF	
KB3GUZ	N3HKQ	W3VFA			
KB3HVN	N3IDH	W3WH			

Through November 30th, 2005

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Announcing the 6th Annual WASH 2M Contest!

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

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

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

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 14th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 14th, 2006 from 7 to 11 PM EST.
(That's January 15th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

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

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

FM: FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.520 to 147.580 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 is **not** to be used. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.

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

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

*Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour
Listen for SSB QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

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

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

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

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

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

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

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the **WASH** web site, www.washarc.org, no later than January 1st.

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

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 8th, 2006

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2006 on February 26th

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

146.535 MHz	147.520 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.535 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.550 MHz
146.580 MHz	147.565 MHz
146.595 MHz	147.580 MHz

The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, may not be used. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

Bethany VOA Facility Crumbling Jennifer Edwards, courtesy of the Cincinnati Enquirer

West Chester Township, OH — Leaders must decide soon whether to sink major money into the Voice of America building that was the scene of historic radio broadcasts across the world through several wars. Otherwise, the 61-year-old structure will continue crumbling and might need to be torn down.

"This is urgent. We have to put at least \$1.2 million into it to keep the building standing or walk away from it," Township Trustee Catherine Stoker said. "The walls will start breaking apart. It will become too dangerous."

The VOA's Bethany Station is on 330 acres of park property along Tylersville Road, between Butler-Warren and Cox roads. The station began relaying news and entertainment around the world in 1944.

While broadcasters delivered reports from Washington and New York, the signals were relayed to the Tylersville Road station in West Chester and broadcast in more than 50 languages, waging war on Nazi Germany's radio propaganda.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the station closed in 1994.

The federal government gave West Chester Township the two-story brick building with the understanding the township would convert it into a museum to honor its legacy. But those plans were iced by the failure of a 2003 township park levy and the recent rejection for a national grant.

Now, money is immediately needed to replace the heating, air conditioning and electrical systems and exterior masonry, Stoker said.

About a dozen people are in the building daily, mostly township employees. At night, 30 to 40 people from community groups use the facility.

Offices there include the township's parks, recreation and cultural arts department, American Red Cross, NAACP, and the Veterans Voice of America Fund, a non-profit group established to raise money to turn the building into a museum. They also run the VOA gift shop.

(VOA Continued on page 7)

All I Want for Christmas...

As we approach the holiday season, non-ham spouses are once again filled with dread as they contemplate the task of choosing a gift for the ham in their life. Will this year's selection once again be greeted with a quizzical expression and a mumbled, "Gee, it's really...nice!" This after agonizing over the selection for days.

Surely this is not so difficult, eh? All they have to do is pick up a copy of the most dangerous publication on earth - a ham radio store catalog — and select a suitable prize. Can this be so hard? My friends, you don't know the half of it!

Aside from the obvious choice — a brand new multi-k\$ radio — picking your present can be a daunting task. Each of us is highly specialized, having honed our skills over many years, an expert in our chosen field. Every item in the shack has been carefully selected and installed, possibly modified, and likely gleaned from a long line of predecessors discarded as a result of one subtle fault or another. How does one choose just the right thing for such a person, when we take months to choose gadgets ourselves?

My long-suffering spouse, Nancy, has made diligent efforts and finally settled on not getting equipment at all, but rather making curtains for the shack, a FB wall hanging with the NØAX call sign, or even a desk map. She gave up on picking techno-trinkets long ago after not generating the desired zing from her ham. But consider the poor spouse still learning the hard way!

She or he may pore over your magazines and flyers for weeks, chewing fingernails to the quick. Then they nervously dial the 1-800 number to order the Chosen Item, a 2005 Channelblanger, only to be met with the dreaded, "What options do you want with that?" Options? There are options? "Yeah, a 245XL feldstormatic comes standard, but you can substitute the Pi-over-2 ditzmonger or the Ethermangler 7th-order bi-chuck suppressor." A long pause ensues before the harried orderer works up the nerve to ask what they cost. "They're all \$49.95."

Dang! No clue there, can one order them all? "No, you can only install one."

Ward Silver NØAX courtesy of the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

Since the spouse has no idea what you would do with the Channelblanger anyway, panic sets in. Eventually, a quasi-random Channelblanger option is selected and a good stiff drink is poured knowing that the chances of success are as slim as the chances of getting the feed lines tidied up before the relatives come for dinner.

On the day of days, you open your present with trembling fingers, hoping for that new Zorborator Field-and-Stream Mark Fifty-seven. Yes! The box is from YaeKenComTec and it's heavy! And...it's...a...save the paper...a...

Oh. It's a Channelblanger. Um. "Gee, it's really...nice!" You can hear the fizz leaking out of all parties as dreams are dashed on the sharp rocks of incomprehension and dismay.

What to do? Personally, "just buying my own darn present" doesn't have a lot of appeal. After all, I manage to sneak enough stuff into the house throughout the year. (No, Nancy doesn't get this newsletter..

Leaving things up to random chance has a vanishingly small chance of success. Strategically leaving magazines open with certain items circled in black felt-tip is no guarantee of getting the desired result either. I've settled on writing "suggestions" on slips of paper (along with a vendor) and putting them in a jar. I don't expect to get them all (well, there's always hope) and so the element of surprise is preserved. The thrill of the hunt is still present, but without that awful downside.

You may have your own methods of achieving spousal harmony at present time. For those new to the hobby or to domestic bliss, I offer the preceding tale as your e-Elmer, one ham to another. If you are considerate and can devise a suitable system, your spouse will appreciate it.

Perhaps even to the tune of a new Zorborator!

Need I say more?

Jack

Ron Notarius WN3VAW

Most of you never had the honor of knowing Jack Carlson N3FZ. Jack was an on & off member of the club for the last few years (work at the Port Authority kept him from meeting nights), although you'd occasionally bump into him at a hamfest. A few club members, and other area amateurs, got to know Jack from his VHF and EME operating. But he just didn't seem to be a "club" type of guy.

And that's a real shame. Jack (who became a Silent Key after a long illness with cancer on September 25th) and I knew each other for a long time.

I first met Jack when I was a freshman at college (no, dinosaurs didn't rule the earth then. Well, maybe Joe Paterno...) and had hooked up with the Penn State ARC K3CR. Jack was a senior, later coming back as a grad student. He was, without a doubt, one of the best CW operators I'd ever seen. You could be sitting in front of the S-Line, trying to copy an incoming message from a traffic net; Jack, standing behind you in one of his perpetual arguments with Bruce Long (now) KJ3Z, would break off in mid-conversation, turn around, and tell you what you had miscopied. Or he'd be the one at the rig, copying high speed code in his head while simultaneously monitoring you on the second station and arguing antennas with Bruce... and never miss a beat on any of the three simultaneous threads. It was a standing joke (or was it?) that if he put his mind to it, Jack could copy 45 Baud RTTY in his head too.

Besides being an avid CW operator, Jack was a top-notch contester. If you ever go back to the records of his era, and look up all of the Atlantic Division certificates that K3CR won in the ARRL contests, season after season, you'll see Jack's fingerprints all over them.

Jack is one of the reasons I became a contester. At the end of my first set of finals, a handful of us stayed over the weekend to work the Sweepstates SSB. We operated K3CR, primarily from Dr. Les Hale W3LH's shack at the Electrical Engineering East building. Jack was one of the people who taught me how to log, how to dupe (on paper), how to listen to a pileup, when to jump in, and how. When a couple of us rookies were sent back over to the K3CR shack to work the tough KL7 multiplier on 15, Jack (listening back at the main station a few blocks away, talking to us on 2 meters simplex) coached us on pointing the beam, being patient, listening to propagation moving East (based on the stations worked) and when to call. We got him on the first call — thanks to Jack.

As some of you may know, I was unlicensed for my first few years of college,

after my Novice expired. Jack was always after me to work on my code and get my own ticket back, instead of always operating under the club call with a control op. Along with KJ3Z and WA3WAW, he worked with me on my code, even tried to give me my Tech once. But I barely missed one minute solid, and he wouldn't budge — I had to do it right (and he was right, too).

Jack and I lost touch after we both left school, until we bumped into each other a few years ago at Breezeshooters and other hamfests. We managed to stay in touch from time to time, both at hamfests and on 75 phone (he used to ragchew with some locals just above 3800 kHz). I started to see him on a regular basis after I transferred to the Bethel Park Home Depot (which is around the corner, literally, from his home). He used to tell me tales about his house-mate/ex-girlfriend, who hadn't moved out of his house yet, and when she finally did, about all the stuff she took with her... about his mom, and some new appliances she needed... about the DX he'd recently worked on EME, which was always challenging because he didn't have an az/el antenna setup, so he could only work the moon when it was on his horizon... and so forth. I met his brother a few times, and his teenage daughter once (smart kid, must get it from her dad)

After about a year, I didn't see Jack for a long time. The next time I did, I was almost shocked. He'd lost a tremendous amount of weight, and looked thinner than he did in college. I knew immediately it could only be due to only one of two things... and sadly, it was his final illness taking its toll. Jack told me that he'd been undergoing a lot of chemo, and that they thought they had it under control. He was looking forward to getting his strength back and getting more active in A-mateur Radio again — even trying to make a club meeting; of course, he was always telling me that.

The last time I saw him, at the end of August, he casually mentioned that he was going in for some tests, as they thought the tumors were back in his arm. He said it as casually as if he wanted to know if you preferred Coke or Pepsi with your sandwich. I think we both knew time was short. He promised to stop back in after he got out of the hospital, and let me know how things went. Right after that, though, I transferred to another store... and I never saw Jack again.

A lot of hams who knew Jack still don't know that he passed, as he kept his illness quiet. Those of us who remember him are saddened at our loss.

I just wish most of you could have known him like I did. 73 N3FZ SK

ARRL, FCC Debating BPL Interference Resolution Database

courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, December 2nd, 2005 — The acting chief of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) is standing foursquare behind the recently opened Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Interference Resolution Web site. The deadline for BPL operators to populate the database, provided by the United Power Line Council (UPLC) and the United Telecom Council (UTC), was November 19. In October, the ARRL took strong exception to limitations UTC, the site's administrator, has imposed on the number of allowable licensee searches and to the use of ZIP codes as the only search key. Acting OET Chief Bruce Franca defended the BPL database November 22.

"Your concern, limiting access to the database, does not constitute a violation of the rules," said Franca, citing verse and chapter of Part 15 to back up his assertion. Franca said §15.615(d) "clearly states" that the database is intended to identify possible sources of harmful interference thought to emanate from a BPL system. "Permitting individuals who are using a licensed service that operates on the same frequencies as are used by a BPL system to query for pertinent information in the geographic area of that interference fully fulfills this function," he concluded.

A note on the BPL database site cautions that users are "allowed to search a limited number of times each month." It further advises users not to conduct random database searches, lest their access to the database be further restricted. In his initial complaint, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, called the notice "unacceptable" and characterized it as an attempt to "ration access" to the site.

Franca also defended the use of ZIP codes as the only means to query the database, saying they are easily understood and identifiable. "Database queries will provide the information required by our rules for BPL systems deployed within a ZIP code," he said. Sumner had argued earlier that requiring users to enter a ZIP code before gaining access to the database was "clearly contrary" to the requirement that the database be available to the public.

Responding November 30, Sumner gamely took another stab at getting the League's point across. Part 15 is unambiguous that the information in the database must be publicly accessible approximately 30 days before a BPL system begins operation, he said. Using a ZIP code to gain entry, Sumner continued, "renders the advance notification requirement meaningless to the public" unless someone were to regularly visit the Web site and repeatedly enter a particular ZIP code. But since that practice "is specifically

discouraged" by the UTC's notice," Sumner pointed out, it's impossible for the public to know about a BPL startup in advance, something the BPL *Report and Order* seems to require.

The lack of any prior consultation prevents a BPL operator from tailoring a system to reduce the probability of harmful interference to a specific station in advance of commencing operation, Sumner continued. "Therefore, the benefit of the prior notification requirement, limited though it is as an interference measure, is lost to the BPL operator as well as to the licensed radio service that will suffer harmful interference that could have been avoided," he said.

Sumner said the UTC-administered database "provides less than was promised" in the FCC's October 2004 *Report and Order*. "For advance notification to be meaningful, the public must know when additions and changes to the database occur," he contended. "That is functionally impossible if the 'publicly accessible' database is actually maintained behind an opaque curtain and is only revealed one ZIP code at a time."

One workaround, Sumner suggested, would be to require UTC to make publicly available a list of ZIP codes and the date of the most recent data entry for each. "This also would make it clear when a specific BPL system serves more than one ZIP code area, information that is required by §15.615 (a)(3) but that is not available to the public at present except by individual query of each ZIP code."

Sumner said Franca failed to respond to his point regarding the error message that appears when a database user enters a ZIP code where no BPL system apparently has been deployed. As an example, he cited a small BPL test area that is located partly in Agawam (ZIP 01001) and partly in the community Feeding Hills (ZIP 01030), Massachusetts. The data for the system only appears under the Agawam ZIP code, Sumner pointed out.

Entering the Feeding Hills ZIP code yields the error message. At that point, users are asked to provide "written details" about the nature of the interference and the user's licensed operations as well as location — "complete address and coordinates" — operating frequencies, whether mobile or fixed and a brief description of the interference.

"Frankly, UTC has no authority to require the submission of such information from an FCC licensee prior to sharing information that the public is entitled to as a matter of right," Sumner concluded — reiterating a point made in his initial correspondence. "If the database were appropriately accessible the question would never arise."

NYC Ham Ticketed for "Cell Phone" Use

Joe Hernandez W2JLH courtesy of www.eham.net

Back on May 12th, 2005 I received a "cell phone in use" ticket on 23rd Street and FDR Drive Manhattan. The Hearing was today and the judge found me guilty. I am so angry I feel violated and I feel every Amateur Radio Operator received a ticket today.

How it unfolded:

The officer swore in and explained that "he saw me using a cell phone, pulled me over and explained that I cannot use a cell phone while driving". The judge asked if I wanted to speak I said "Your honor, after the officer stopped and explained that he was going to give me a ticket for "cell phone in use" I told the officer that this was not a cell phone it is an amateur radio"

I explained to the judge that I was a licensed amateur radio operator and handed him my original license and also pointed out that my license plate was an amateur radio license plate. I also presented a written letter from KC2CBA Tom Golero which was notarized and explained that at the time of

the incident I was talking to him on amateur radio like we do every morning.

The judge did not buy it and I told him, "your honor with all do respect NYC TRAFFIC LAW TITLE 7 ARTICLE 33 1225C (B) DEFINES A "MOBILE TELEPHONE AS ONE CONNECTED TO A PUBLIC SWITCH". Amateur radio is not connected to a public switch its Radio to Radio.

Then he opened his law book read it but still was in doubt. He asked me to describe the radio and how I was using it. I described the Mobile radio and made it clear that it was a microphone with a cord held in front of my mouth. THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR HIM TO HEAR AND HE SAID I WAS GUILTY because I held it in close proximity to my ear.

I will appeal.

I contacted George Tranos, ARRL Section Manager NYC/LI and informed him. Unfortunately he was not there so I left a message and my number.

(VOA Continued from page 5)

The West Chester Amateur Radio Association operates an amateur radio station in the building, give tours of the facility and helps with some repairs.

Also housed there are the Gray Wireless antique radio collection previously displayed at WGUC-FM, and the Media Heritage collection of early radio equipment and shows.

On Nov. 5, a transformer inside a light fixture on the first story shorted out and smoldered, a fire report shows. There were no damages or injuries. Those who work in the building say they feel safe, but are dismayed.

"It's sad to see the deterioration," said Barb Wilson, parks events coordinator. "It would be a real loss and real shame to lose a structure with such significance. It is a real treasure in the community and an important part of our national history."

Veterans Voice of America has raised nearly \$100,000 for renovations.

They recently paid \$50,000 toward a new heating system in the building, but that will only cover about 25 percent of the structure, said Stoker, also a founding board member of the Veterans Voice of America.

Township Trustee Jose Alvarez also said the building should be saved, though he is not certain it needs the full \$1 million in repairs all at once.

QRZ C6?

I am thinking of undertaking a 4 to 5 day Dxpediton to Bimini Island NA -048 to commence a couple of days before the IOTA contest and then participate in it which will be sked for end of July early August 2006.

I intend for it to be a modest operation with max of two stations and perhaps 3-4 operators running SSB & CW with wire antennas or verticals. I don't have QRP equipment, but don't rule it out. I work QRP FD. It's lots of fun, effective and an easy way to travel and put a station on the air quickly. If someone wants to operate digital mode that's fine too.

This is a first for me and the purpose is to put a new or rare Bahamas IOTA group on the air for as many as possible to work. My understanding is that NA-048 is considered in this category. If someone knows of another IOTA group to consider, please let me know.

I have never been to the Bahamas. I have been told that Bimini (or the islands in that group) are close to the USA mainland and relatively easy to get to. However, my understanding is the drawbacks on going to Bimini are it's reputation for being an illicit drug haven and also concentration of gambling casinos. The casinos aren't a concern but a safe living and operating atmosphere where those that might be interested in joining to get away for a few days to mount an informal operation in a safe environment and enjoy the camaraderie are. Any comments or info in this regard would be appreciated.

- Is anyone interested in helping plan, coordinate or joining me?
- How do you go about getting a license? What is the lead time? Any license fees? Customs requirements?
- If Bimini is not appealing, any suggestions on other rare or infrequently activated Bahamian islands with accommodations as alternatives?

— 73 Al Cammarata W3AWU
italiancookbook1@juno.com

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

done 2006 WACOM Hamfest. (applause)

- Mark N3RDV reminded everyone that he needs an application with 2006 dues, even if it just says "same as last year." This way he knows who sent in a renewal, as opposed to money for other purposes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

(Presidential Words Continued from page 1)

The annual Christmas party is at **Calbria's** on Library Road, Route 88 in Castle Shannon on Thursday, December 8th. Carol Danko and her



committee has prepared quite an evening for us, so please don't miss it! On behalf of the club leadership I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and happy and healthy 2006.

Photo: Kevin N3HKQ during his talk on amateur radio satellites, at Upper St. Clair High School. Photo courtesy of Dan McCann KB3HVN

— 73, Kevin Smith
N3HKQ

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/B

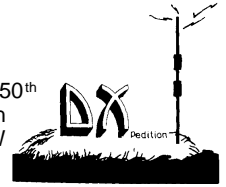
Silent Keys



Jack Carlson N3FZ, 52, Bethel Park, September 25th

Coleman Murphy Jr. W3BBL, 98, Mt. Lebanon, November 27th

DX News Briefs



LR5ØU will be QRV during December, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of "the first operation from South Sandwich Island Argentine Station." They will be primarily on CW & SSB. More information on the GACW web site at <http://gacw.no-ip.org> — LU6EF

Reservations are now open for the Headquarters Hotel for **WRTC 2006**. Go to the WRTC-2006 page <http://www.wrtc2006.com> and click the "Costao do Santinho" banner for reservations. You also can go directly to the reservation Web address at <http://www.costao.com.br/versoes/ingles/reservas/reservas.php>. The rates are US \$85 per person per day including 3 (three) meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. In the window "package" you should choose your preferred option. As in past events, there will be a special package for the referees and teams.

In order to keep applicants and the contest community aware of the status of submitted applications an applications-received list is available on the WRTC-2006 home page, <http://www.wrtc2006.com> or directly from PY2YP's Web site at <http://www.py2yp.ws/wrtcapp.htm>. — PY5EG

LA4GHA is now QRV from Bear Island (EU-027) through June as **JW4GHA**. He will be QRV on 160—2 meters, on CW, SSB & Digital modes. QSL via home call — VA3RJ, OPDX

8Q7IH is now QRV through December 12th. QSL via IW1RIH — IW1RIH

KFØRQ is now QRV as **XU7ACQ** through December 28th. Look for him on 14245 kHz SSB from 1400—1700 Z daily. QSL via KFØRQ — NG3K

Look for **HSØZCW** (QSL via K4VUD) **HR2DMR** during the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. — K4VUD, HR2DMR

HA7TM will be QRV as **6W/HA7TM** 15—22 December — NG3K

KHØ/KH2LV will be QRV 22—25 December. QSL via JM1LJS — JM1LJS

4X411A will be QRV from The Dead Sea (411 meters deep at it's deepest point, the lowest exposed point on Earth's surface) with two stations on CW & SSB 23-24 December. QSL via 4Z4BS — 425 DX News

HBØ/T94DX will be QRV during the CQ 160 Meter contest 28-29 January. QSL via T94DX — F5NQL

Not the Manager: "Some 'helpful soul' has seen fit to upload my details as the QSL manager for **Z21CA**, with the result that I am receiving QSL requests that I cannot answer. I have asked QRZ to delete the entry but will be grateful if you could give the maximum publicity to the fact that I am not, and never have been the QSL manager for **Z21CA**" — G3SWH

QSL Routes

3C2MV via VE6LB – VE3EXY	KH9/WØCN via K9JS -- N5FPW
4J6ZZ via UT3UY – W9OL	OL5Q via OK1HRA – W9IXX
4X6UO via WB3CQN – W9IXX	OHØZ via WØMM – W9OL
5R8GZ via G3SWH – W2IRT	P29SX via G3SXW – W9IXX
5TØJL via ON8RA – KZ2I	RØK via RZ3C – K14RU
6D8C via XE1BEF – WC6DX	R1MVV via DK4VW – K14RU
7Q7HB via GØIAS – W2IRT	R750KG via DK4VW – JJ1BDX
9J2BO via G3TEV – W2IRT	RD3A via RD3AF – W9IXX
AHØ/NA8O via JK1FNL – JJ1BDX	T88AA, T88AB via UA3DX – W3UR
BY4BZB via DL4NN – TA1DX	T88IB via UA3DX –K7ACZ
C6AKA via DL7VOG – W9OL	T97C via DL5SBA – W2IRT
C21DL via DJ3EH – JJ1BDX	TF3XEN via KT6YL – KZ2I
C21XF via G3TXF – KZ2I	TI8CBT via EA7FTR – W2IRT
CT3AS via DJ8FW – W9IXX	TJ3FR via DL7UFR – KA2BZS
CT6A via CT1ILT – PT7WA	TJ3SP via DL7UFR – KA2BZS
DU3NXE via W3HNC – W2IRT	V44/EW1AR via W3HNC – W2IRT
DXØK via 4F2KWT – SM5DQC	V44/EW1AT via W3HNC – W9OL
GMØB via GMØEGO – W9OL	VK9CD via DJ5IW – T93Y
HBØ/HB9AON via DJ2YE – W9OL	VP2EAZ via W9AAZ – W2IRT
HC1HC via NE8Z – JJ1BDX	VP9/K1XM via KQ1F – W9IXX
J37LR via VE3EBN – W2IRT	YN4/H79W via K9AJ – AD1C
J49Z via IK8UND – KZ2I	ZD8Z via VE3HO – W2IRT

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



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FCC News

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

Newington, CT, December 2nd, 2005 — The FCC has affirmed a total of \$42,000 in additional fines against reputed Los Angeles -area radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, ex -KG6IRO. The FCC released the two \$21,000 *Forfeiture Orders* (NOF) just days before Gerritsen is due to appear in federal court to stand trial on 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, according to a statement earlier this year from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. If convicted, Gerritsen, 68, could spend up to 11 years in federal prison. In affirming the fines, the FCC again turned away every argument Gerritsen offered in responding to each *Notice of Apparent Liability* (NAL), including a "freedom of speech" claim.



"His unlicensed operation on amateur frequencies is not protected by the US Constitution as it is well established that the right to free speech does not include the right to use radio facilities without a license," the FCC said in a footnote in one of the *NOFs*. Both documents include detailed recitations of the charges and allegations in the case.

One of the \$21,000 forfeiture notices involves alleged willful and repeated malicious interference with Amateur Radio communications. The second *NOF* focuses on alleged willful and repeated interference with the radio communications of a US Coast Guard Auxiliary officer attempting to use Amateur Radio frequencies to assist a sailboat in distress. Last March, the FCC upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The government has yet to collect.

FBI agents, accompanied by FCC staff, arrested Gerritsen without incident last May at his home in Bell. Federal agents also seized his radio equipment. Gerritsen was released on a \$250,000 property bond and has remained in home detention, barred from possessing any radio equipment, while awaiting trial. Yang's office said the FBI "received substantial assistance" from the FCC in the case.

Gerritsen's history of radio-related legal problems go back to 1999 when the California Highway Patrol arrested him for intercepting, obstructing and/or interfering with police radio communications. He was convicted the following year. Shortly after granting Gerritsen's application for a Technician class Amateur Radio license in 2001 and issuing him the call sign KG6IRO, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau rescinded the grant because his earlier conviction raised questions about his qualifications to be a licensee. While transmitting on various Los Angeles-area repeaters, Gerritsen continued to identify as KG6IRO, however, claiming the FCC could not take away his license without a hearing.

Los Angeles-area repeater owners had taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen.

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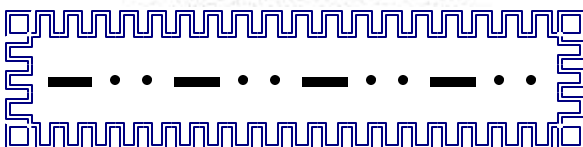
The call sign and owner have changed again, but the FCC alleges that problems persist on the Los Angeles area's 147.435 MHz repeater, now operated by Jeffrey Stieglitz, AE6NZ, of Torrance. The FCC Los Angeles District Office recently informed Stieglitz that it was suspending automatic control privileges for the repeater. That means the licensee or a designated control operator must be at the repeater's control point whenever the machine is operational.

"Your amateur station AE6NZ is under review by the Enforcement Bureau for numerous and continued apparent violations of the Commissions rules," FCC LA Office District Director Catherine Deaton wrote Stieglitz November 18. The Commission alleges inadequate station control, deliberate interference, failure of users to identify and use by unlicensed operators.

Stieglitz told ARRL he encourages users of the busy repeater to comply with Part 97 rules & to make a reasonable effort to identify unlicensed operators. "I believe that the 147.435 repeater attracts people to the hobby and, overall, is consistent with the purposes of Amateur Radio. "We recently raised \$3000 for hurricane relief, and this coming Sunday is our 14th annual 'Hams for Tots' event."

Deaton says the no-automatic-control sanction will remain while the various allegations are investigated, and until her office says otherwise. "If AE6NZ is operated under automatic control prior to notification from this office," she added, "enforcement action will be taken against your amateur license for AE6NZ" up to and including a license revocation and suspension hearing, a fine or both.

The odd-split 147.435 MHz Contractor's Point repeater (the primary input is 146.400 MHz) has been a lightning rod for controversy over the years. Formerly owned by Kathryn Tucker, AA6TK, with her husband, Roy Tucker, N6TK, as control operator, the then-W6NUT repeater attracted FCC attention for similar alleged violations. In September 2001, the FCC terminated the automatic control privileges of the W6NUT repeater while it was reviewing its operation.



Now in our **ELEVENTH** big year!



WASHfest 2006

The South Hills Hamfest

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

Sunday, February 26th, 2006

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

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

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

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



(800) 545-8881

**Breakfast & Lunch
provided by Jack's
Catering
of Peters Township**

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

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

- 1st Prize: To Be Announced
- 2nd Prize: To Be Announced
- 3rd Prize: To Be Announced
- 4th Prize: To Be Announced

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

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

For reservations, or information, Contact:

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

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

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
897 Lovington Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15216-1725

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

License Class: _____

City, State: _____

Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

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: _____

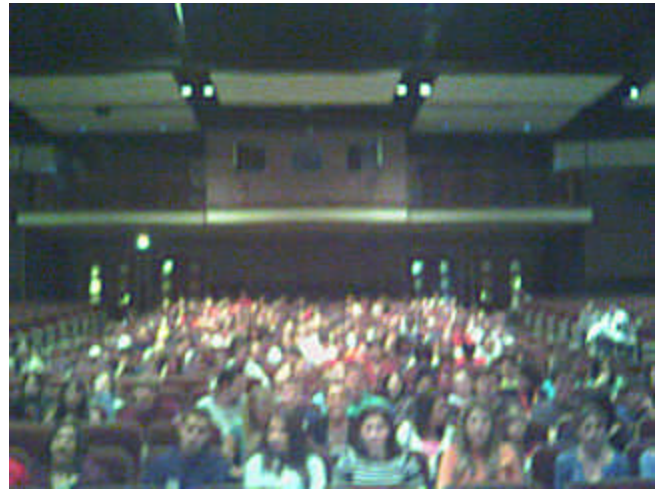
Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Inside This Issue:

- 2 Meter Contest Rules!
- ARRL & FCC Feuding on BPL Provider Database Access
- In what city is a ham radio considered the same as a cell phone?
- Pictures from the talk at USC!
- "All I Want for Christmas..."
- Historic VOA Buildings Crumbling!

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



"Say Cheese!"

During his part of the International Education Week presentation to the students at Upper St. Clair High School on November 30th, Dan KB3HVN took this picture (with his cell phone) of the students in attendance. Over 300 students and faculty, in two groups, heard KB3HVN, N3HKQ and WN3VAW talk about the international aspects of Amateur Radio.

Photo courtesy of & Copyright ©2005 Dan McCann KB3HVN

The WASHRag

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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2222



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B
www.washarc.org



WASH Christmas / Holiday Party
Thursday, December 8th
Calabria's, Route 88,
Castle Shannon