



## FCC NPRM Proposes To Drop Morse Code Requirement For All License Classes

NEWINGTON, CT, July 20, 2005 — The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission recommended the change to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules in a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 05-235. Any rule changes proposed in the *NPRM* would not become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a *Report and Order (R&O)* spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. The FCC declined in its *NPRM* to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said in its *NPRM*, released July 19. This week's *NPRM* consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community — including one from the ARRL — that proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again — this time on the FCC's proposals in response to those petitions.

The Commission said it believes dropping Element 1 — the 5 WPM Morse  
*(FCC Continued on page 5)*

## Duquesne Light Bringing BPL to Monroeville August 8<sup>th</sup>

Duquesne Broadband, a joint venture of Duquesne Light and million-dollar startup BPL Global, will launch BPL service in a "pilot service area" of Monroeville starting August 8.

According to the front-page article in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, the two neighborhoods affected are the Saunders Station Road area between Bucknell and Foxwood Drives, and Harvard and Old Concord Roads, and the Stroschein Road area, south of Monroeville Boulevard, bordered by Wyngate Drive and Boston Court Lane. A map of the affected area was shown in the smaller *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* article and can be downloaded from the PG web site.

The target area, allegedly a cross-section representing the Pittsburgh region, contains about 2800 residences and several businesses. It is not known how

*(BPL Continued on page 5)*

## Next Meeting: : August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

September Picnic plans, 2005 Pennsylvania QSO Party operating, 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!

## Presidential Words

If this month's **WASHRag** is late in being issued, I am the reason since I waited to the last minute to write this column. July was busy with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix and the Twisted Rail Emergency Drill occurring over the same weekend. You will see articles and pictures about this event in this month's **WASHRag**.

As I write this column I am also listening for K2BSA/4, the Boy Scout Jamboree Station. I am running out of time to make a contact as tomorrow (August 3<sup>rd</sup>) is the last day of the Jamboree.



Last week during the day, I hear stations talking to K2BSA but I have had a difficult time hearing them. I did manage one contact, sort of, on a Thursday morning on 40 meters. The band was very noisy and although I think K2BSA heard me, I could not make much out on my end. I hope you had better luck than me.

For those of us living in Washington County, may want to consider helping with the annual Labor Day 5k Run/Walk held in Washington PA. Dave DeMotte N3IDH is looking for volunteers to provide communications assistance to the event organizers on Labor Day morning. Things begin at 8:00 AM, wrap up before lunch, and there is usually a tee shirt given for our trouble. I hope to see you there.

Finally, if you usually attend the club's annual summer picnic, it is rescheduled from the usual date in August to September. As it was last year, it will be

*(Presidential Words Continued on page 8)*

### Inside this issue:

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Make Your Voice Heard	5
A 20 Meter Antenna Project	6
My First Field Day	7
DX News Briefs	8
News from the Sea	10

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

NCS Schedule  
Listed On Page 3

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

**LOOKING  
AHEAD:**

- Uniontown ARC  
W3PIE Gabfest  
September 3rd
- Butler Co ARA  
Hamfest  
September 11th
- MidAtlantic VHF  
Conference  
September 24th
- CA QSO Party  
Oct. 1st & 2nd
- PA QSO Party  
Oct. 8th & 9th
- WPA Repeater  
Council Annual  
Elections  
October 16th
- WACOM  
Hamfest  
November 6th
- WASH Holiday  
Party Dec. 8th
- WASHFest 2006  
February 26th

# August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>2</b> Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap m' Shop Net	<b>3</b> Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>4</b> WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>5</b> Elco ARS Meeting	<b>6</b> RA Erie VE Test WACOM Picnic Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>7</b> Ellwood City ARA Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>8</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>9</b> Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap m' Shop Net	<b>10</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>11</b> <b>WASH Meeting</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Butler Co ARA VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast 2 Rivers ARC Family Picnic Skyview RS VE Test North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>14</b> QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>15</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>16</b> Steel City ARC Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Meeting S H B P & M Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting	<b>17</b> Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>18</b> Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>19</b> Quad Co ARC Meeting	<b>20</b> Foothills ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>21</b> Elk Co ARC Meeting QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>22</b> Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>23</b> WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap m' Shop Net	<b>24</b> Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>25</b> WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>WASH Breakfast</b> North Hills ARC Elmer Net
<b>28</b> QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	<b>29</b> Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	<b>30</b> Skyview RS Elmer Night WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap m' Shop Net	<b>31</b> Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	<b>9/1</b> WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	<b>9/2</b> Elco ARS Meeting	<b>9/3</b> RA Erie VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
Skyview Swap & Shop						W3PIE Gabfest

## WASH 2005 OFFICERS

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

President Kevin Smith N3HKQ  
VP / Secretary (vacant)  
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  
Ways & Means Kevin DeRose N3KFD  
Media Communications Ben Williams KB3ERQ  
Allegheny Co ARES Representative

**CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS & BEACONS:**

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX/R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
		Echo Link #26861 (courtesy W3SRL)	
Canonsburg	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 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 October 20<sup>th</sup>

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

Another hot July morning brought the **WASH Breakfast Gang** to **The Country Fixin's**, on Route 980 in Cecil, just on the other side of Canonsburg, on July 30<sup>th</sup>. This month's gathering included N3IDH, KB3HJZ & Cliff, N3ZNI, N3ZEL, W9UK, WB4GCS, KD3DK & WN3VAW. Topics of the morning were road rash and snakes, disguises for cell towers, updates on K3LGM's ongoing antenna saga & delivery relay, monopoles, detuning networks, Karaoke Night at the Oakdale Inn, Lightning Bolt Mike, spider antennas, working for the post office, gun classes, retirement and NM, psycho dogs in Betzhooover, "The Last of the Mohiccans (sp?)," Comcast "service" and turning cable into spaghetti, downloading pictures, and a whole lot more.

Feel left out? Don't! Join us at the next Club Breakfast, August 27<sup>th</sup>, currently set **Dukes Restaurant**, Baptist Road, Bethel Park (just past 84 Lumber and across from Millennium Park). See you there!

**On the mend:** Dan KB3HVN has been under the weather lately, glad to hear that he's up and about again. Who needs a gall bladder anyway?

**Club Picnic Date Change:** As mentioned elsewhere, the annual August **WASH** club picnic has been moved to September 18<sup>th</sup> because of scheduling conflicts with our hosts. One of the reasons we began holding the picnic in August was because there was no AC at our previous meeting location, and hot August evenings in there were a real bear! Not a problem, of course, at the library. This will be a week after the BCARA Hamfest. We've tried in the past to have a club picnic at this hamfest too (as we've done quite successfully at Breezeshooter's) with mixed success, but with the club picnic a week later, don't expect to see one at the hamfest too.

**Over on Page 10** you'll find an update from our Maritime Mobile'ers. Does make you wonder what some of our other "DX" members are up to, scattered as they are around the country. Anyone want to send us some news and/or pictures for a future newsletter? (hint hint)

**The 2005 Pennsylvania QSO Party** is only about 2 1/2 months away as this is written. It's been a big (and fun!) operating event for most of the club for many years now. Have you made any plans to operate, either on your own (from home or portable or even mobile) or with one of the club stations (ours, WACOM's, Steel City's, etc.)? If you haven't, give it some thought. All of the club stations welcome additional operators, no experience necessary & we'll train "on the job!"

**The FCC's little announcement** has already started to generate a lot of reaction around the country. How do you feel about it? Regardless, please plan on commenting before it's too late (as this is written, you still have plenty of time, but that will change.) Before writing the FCC though, please take a few moments and READ the NPRM — don't go merely by what someone else has written or assumed. This is probably the biggest issue facing Amateurs today, and it WILL have a profound and irreversible impact on the Amateur Service as we know it. Take a deep breath, give it a lot of thought, and then let the FCC know how you feel.

Let's just hope that the FCC staff and Commisioners actually bother to read the comments, and not go through the motions like they've appeared to do at so many times recently, such as the BPL debacle.

## July 21<sup>st</sup> VE Test Results

We had three candidates at our July 21<sup>st</sup> VEC test session, held at the Peters Township Library in McMurray. One of the candidates successfully earned new licenses, the other two successfully earned upgrades!

According to the FCC ULS database, the following licenses were issued in late July:

General: George Randall KB3KGP  
 Charles Bell KD8BWZ (ex KB4SBQ)

Amateur Extra: Lori Bobro KB3FZU

WASH VE Team:  
 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL  
 Paul Lusardi NØVLR  
 Ron Notarius WN3VAW  
 Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI

Also present, but unable to participate [as per FCC R&R §97.509 (d)], was WASH VE Frank Bobro KB3FZU.

Of course, many, many thanks to all of the VE's for coming out and lending a hand at this test session. And Congratulations to all our amateurs and looking forward to hearing them on the air!

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

The regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will go up slightly later this year. An FCC Report and Order on Reconsideration (R&O) in the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 released July 7 increases the fee for FY 2005 to \$21.90 for the 10-year license term. The FCC said it had adjusted FY 2004 "payment units" for each service to better reflect expected FY 2005 payment liabilities — courtesy ARRL

## WASHNet 2005 NCS Schedule

08/07	Bill, W3WH	or Lorrie, KB3GMU
08/14	Hank, KB3FNM	11/06 Carol, KB3GMN
08/21	Paul, NØVLR	or Richie, N3SBF
08/28	Carol, KB3GMN	11/13 Kevin, N3HKQ
	or Richie, N3SBF	11/20 Harold, KB3CPI
09/04	Kevin, N3HKQ	11/27 Bell Family
09/11	Harold, KB3CPI	12/04 Michael, KB3HFP
09/18	Bell Family	12/11 Bill, W3WH
09/25	Bill, W3WH	12/18 Ron, WN3VAW
10/02	Michael, KB3HFP	12/25 Frank, KB3FZU
10/09	Hank, KB3FNM	or Lorrie, KB3GMU
10/16	Paul, NØVLR	01/01 Paul, NØVLR
10/23	Kevin, N3HKQ	
10/30	Frank, KB3FZU	Alternate — Ron WN3VAW

## 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**

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

Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Acting Secretary, **WASH**

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Smith at 19:10 hours. There was a moment of silence observed for Silent Keys. Introductions were made all around, as is our custom. KB3FZU moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from last month, second by WN3VAW, carried. Treasurer (N3RDV): No Report. Secretary (Vacant): No Report. VE (N3ZEL): Session next week, two candidates pre-registered, VE's needed! Repeaters (KB3FZU): They're still repeating. Electric bill for last month submitted. FM Net (N3HKQ): Revised schedule sent to NCS's. Public service: PVGP this weekend. WN3VAW, KB3HVN, K3VX, N2QIV will be there, more help needed. There will be an ARES drill this weekend, see N3IDH for details. (see article page 6)

Contests (W4ZE & K3VX):  
 Field Day : A big success. 7—8 more FD pins needed. General discussion on FD followed; location was great; we need more CW ops next year; visit from Amateur Astronomers group a hit. Biggest disappointment was a "no show" from the Scout troop camped out down the road. WB4GCS announced that "this club throws a good Field Day!"  
 CQ VHF Contest this weekend  
 Pa QSO Party: W4ZE offered to host N3SH m/m, offer accepted. WA3SH team will again be at Heritage BSA Reservation in Fayette. W3WH & K3VX are thinking of a portable operation somewhere.

Activities: Discussion on club picnic. Picnic will again be hosted by the Sanfords (WB4GCS & KC4WTT) at their house. Due to scheduling problems, the date will be moved to September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. A sign-up sheet will be sent around. E-mail Carol if you are bringing anything.  
 Quartermaster (KB3CPI): All club items present & accounted for. K3VX has the club MFJ antenna analyzer.  
 Newsletter (WN3VAW): It's out  
 Ways & Means (KB3GMN): 50/50 after the meeting, show her the money!  
 President: Club needs a new VP/Secretary. Received a card from the ARRL to update club information.  
 Old Business: None.

New Business: The Amateur Astronomers have asked for help getting involved with Radio Astronomy (see June 2005 QST). More information is needed. A discussion on a portable/mobile tower was begun, KB3FZU discussed the availability of two retired ENG trucks from WPXI and their condition. W3WH discussed small towers available from Force 12. NØVLR asked if we could apply for a grant to help purchase one. KB3GOT appointed to chair a committee to look into this, with W3WH, WN3VAW, NØVLR & N3BSQ volunteering to help. N3HKQ has offered to relocate his "digi" to a better spot for APRS use under the N3SH call. KB3GOT and N2QIV to look into this. W4ZE discussed W3SRL's note to discontinue the Echolink node; does anyone else want to put it back on the air? WB4GCS has asked if someone can host it as "it has value to the amateur community." N3HKQ will get more information from W3SRL.

Good of the order: KB3GMN asked for more participation on the Sunday net. Motion to adjourn by KB3GMN, second by KC4WTT, carried. Adjourned at 8:05 followed by an APRS demonstration by N3BSQ and KB3GOT

# WASH Spotlight: Windom

A "line up of the usual suspects" at the raising of NØVLR's 160 meter Windom antenna.

Guilty parties are Ted W4ZE, Paul NØVLR, Bill W3WH, Anthony Lusardi, and Dave N3DFK. No pictures of Annette NØWPV's famed blue berry crisp ala mode desert were taken to protect them from N3KFD.

The antenna was christened the next day by Paul with a long QSO on 40 meters with his sister, Diane KB1KRJ



Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2005 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

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

## Monthly WASH Breakfast

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!



We alternate our breakfast locations every month to make it easier for club members to get to at least one of them:

Join us in August at **Duke's Station** on Baptist Road in Bethel Park, and in September at **The Country Fixin's**, on Route 980 in Cecil, just on the other side of Canonsburg. 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	KB3IVW	N3RDV	WA3JPP	<b>WASH MM</b>	<b>Silent</b>
AA3JS	KB3IVX	N3RHT	WA3RVD	KA3UPY	<b>Keys</b>
K3JDS	KB3KGP	N3RNX	WB4GCS	<b>WASH GA</b>	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3KOT	N3SBF	WN3VAW	K3OL	KB3ENX
K3VX	KB3LIX	N3TBK	WO3Z	KB3IJX	KB3FQT
KA3NMG	KC4WTT	N3VEH		<b>WASH NE</b>	N3KEH
KA3TWI	KE7FD	N3XI		<b>NØPEU</b>	N3OBD
KB3CPI	KE8RN	N3ZCG		<b>WASH NY</b>	N3SKR
KB3DCO	NØPEU	N3ZEL		KE3XB	N3SRC
KB3EPI	NØVLR	N3ZNI		N3YPB	W3ZLK
KB3FNM	NØWPV	W3GEL		<b>WASH OH</b>	
KB3FZU	N2QIV	W3HND		N8DPW	
KB3GMN	N3AWF	W3JAF		<b>WASH TX</b>	
KB3GMP	N3BSQ	W3RJM		K3LGM	
KB3GMU	N3DFK	W3RWS		<b>WASH VI</b>	
KB3GUZ	N3HKQ	W3VFA		NP2JF	
KB3HVN	N3IDH	W3WH			
KB3IAC	N3PN	W4ZE			
KB3IRQ	N3QMV	W8LEV			

Through July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

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!

## FCC Proposes To Drop Morse Code For All License Classes

examination--would "encourage individuals who are interested in communications technology, or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become amateur radio operators." The FCC said it also would eliminate a requirement it believes "is now unnecessary and that may discourage" current licensees from advancing their skills, and that it would "promote more efficient use" of current Amateur Radio spectrum.

The FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 as the primary reason to go forward with eliminating Morse code as an Amateur Radio licensing requirement in the future. Among other changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges, leaving it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised that the FCC proposed altogether scrapping the Morse code requirement. The League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors would closely study the 30-page *NPRM* and plan to comment further after they've had the opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the ARRL filed a *Petition for Rule Making* asking the FCC to amend

Part 97 to complete the Amateur Service restructuring begun in 1999 but "left unfinished." The League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's *NPRM*, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees already can easily upgrade to General. "We also note that, if our proposal to eliminate telegraphy testing in the amateur service is adopted," the FCC continued, "a person who is not a licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing two written examinations, and that a person who is a Technician Class licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing one written examination." The FCC said it does not believe either path to be unreasonable.

The FCC also said that it's already addressed some of the other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") *NPRM* in WT Docket 04-140. In that proceeding, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming proposal aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional phone spectrum. Under the plan, Novice/Tech Plus licensees would be granted CW privileges in the current General CW subbands.

A 60-day period for members of the public to comment on the FCC's *NPRM* in WT 05-235 will begin once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. Reply comments will be due within 75 days of the *NPRM*'s publication in the *Federal Register*.

— Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

## Make Your Voice Heard with the FCC

Michael Volz W8KAR courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

Anyone, even non-licensed individuals can comment on FCC Docket WT 05-235. All you need is a standard web browser.!

- Go to [http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload\\_v2.cgi](http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload_v2.cgi)
- Under "Proceeding" (item 1), type **05-235**
- For "Mail Correspondence to" (item 2), click the circle by Name
- For "Name of Applicant/Petitioner" (item 3) type your full name
- Items 4-6 [Leave Blank]
- "Mailing Address..." (item 7) type your address e.g. 123 Easy St.
- "City" (item 8) type your city e.g. Chicago
- "State" (item 9) select your state e.g. Illinois
- "Zip Code" (item 10) type your zip, e.g. 15234
- Item 11 [Leave Blank]

- "Document Type" (item 12) select Comment
- Item 13 [Leave Blank]
- Scroll down to the bottom of the page
- Under "Send a Brief Comment to FCC (typed-in)" type your BRIEF message — no polemics, just a line or two of text stating clearly whether you support or oppose removing the Morse Code requirement for licensing.
- Click "Send Brief Comments to FCC"
- After a few seconds, a new prompt says "Go to the next step:"
- Click "Finish Transaction and Receive Confirmation"
- After a few seconds, a new prompt says "The FCC Acknowledges..."

You're done!

Thanks for contributing YOUR voice to this important issue!

*"We are at the forefront of launching a new technology that has the potential to be an important data, voice and video communication link to homes and businesses" claims an unidentified executive*

## Duquesne Light Bringing BPL to Monroeville

(Continued from page 1)

many Amateurs are located within or adjacent to the test area. At least one amateur who works within about 10 minutes of the test area, Jim Sanford WB4GCS, has indicated that he will begin monitoring the amateur bands to see what affects the new BPL service has.

The news articles and press release do not make clear what form of BPL will be in use. However, all indications are that customers will access the system via Wi-Fi or similar wireless technology. The implication is that this system will be closer to Motorola's proposed BPL system rather than the Access BPL system that has been tested in much of the country and proven (except to the lawyers) to cause unacceptable levels of interference to the Amateur Radio and other communication services.

Interestingly enough, a spokesman for Allegheny Power of Greensburg is quoted in the articles as indicating that their

Allegheny Communications Connect unit has explored BPL but decided, for now, not to deploy the service due to "some technical and regulatory issues that would have to be resolved."

Duquesne Broadband is up playing the alleged benefits of their new service, and downplaying the problems. They plan to offer a "standard" service at \$19.95/month and a "premium" service at \$29.95/month, making BPL cost competitive with DSL and cable broadband services. They also desires input from "potential customers outside the pilot area, in order to target other communities for expansion.

The news articles mentioned can be read online at :

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05183/531994.stm>

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05203/541823.stm>

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune-review/trib/regional/s\\_355993.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune-review/trib/regional/s_355993.html)

<http://www.duquesnelight.com/News/NewsReleases/2005/nr050721.pdf>

<http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/65719>

# A Simple And Portable 20 Meter Antenna Project

Joe Caldwell N3XE

All accompanying photos & diagrams courtesy of and Copyright ©2005 Joe Caldwell N3XE

Most hams are familiar with the quarter wavelength ground-plane antenna design. It is often the first antenna they buy or build for use on 2 meters after receiving their technician license. It is a well performing design that exhibits low input impedance, making it ideal for use with ham equipment without the need for special matching techniques. The antenna is easy to construct and due this simplicity is also highly economical.

When considering the type of antenna to build for this year's Field Day to use with my PSK-31 setup this design was the obvious choice. It provides both low take-off angle and omni-directional radiation, allowing me to maximize my operating capability from a simple station.

the desired 50 ohms.

I joined the fishing rod to the pipe by first removing some of the plastic at the base of the fishing rod so that it could slip inside the pipe. Next I drilled a single hole through the pipe and rod so that I could secure the two pieces together using a small bolt and nut to prevent the rod from sliding further into the pipe. This method for joining the pipe and rod is shown in Figure 3. I also wrapped

the fishing rod with some electrical tape to compensate for the difference in diameter of the rod itself and its plastic base. This allows the rod to fit snugly inside the PVC pipe, stiffening the rod and pipe connection.

The radiating element and both radials are 16' 6" long #14 AWG insulated stranded copper wire. For ease of assembly I soldered the radiating element to the center of a SO-239 connector and attached solder lugs to the radials. This allows me to attach the radials to the SO-239 with two small bolts passed through the holes on the connector, simplifying construction in the field. I taped the radiating element to the pole prior to raising the antenna.

The radials were attached after the antenna was erected and securely guyed since the feed point is only 5 feet off the ground providing easy access for mounting. A photo of the feed point assembly is shown in Figure 4.

From start to finish assembling the antenna and guying it in place took about 30 minutes for me to do by myself (with more people it could easily be erected in 5-10 minutes).

The performance of this antenna was better than expected. It matched perfectly on the lower end of 20 meters despite being cut for the center of the band. This was due to my use of insulated wire which adds capacitive loading to the antenna, electrically lengthening it.

I made 66 of my 97 PSK-31 contacts using this antenna and the club's ICOM IC-706MKIIG, at 50 Watts or less.

Whether you're looking for a solid performing base antenna or a light, compact, portable antenna this may be the project for you.



Figure 2

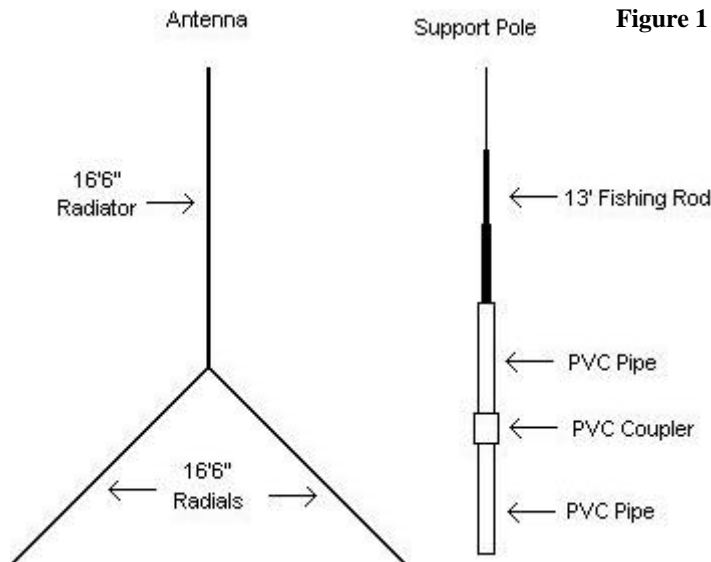


Figure 1

The antenna is made up of a single pole which supports the radiating vertical element and is guyed in place with nylon rope. The two radial elements are spread out and held in place by rope. The layout for the antenna and the support pole is shown in Figure 1 and a photo of the completed support pole guyed in place is shown in Figure 2.

The base of the support pole is made of a ten foot piece of 1.25" Schedule 40 PVC pipe that was cut in half for easier transport in my car. It is joined in the center by a 1.25" PVC coupler. Mounted on top of the PVC pipe is a 13' extendable fiberglass fishing rod which I purchased at Gander Mountain for about \$15.00. I had originally planned on using a 16' rod but none were available when I went to the store, with additional height the radials can be lowered at a steeper angle which in turn raises the input impedance closer to



Figure 3

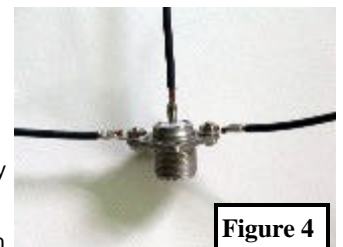


Figure 4

## Waterproofing Connectors

I learned the proper materials and methods for watertight connections while working for over 20 years in underwater acoustics. When you put transducer arrays and other electrical devices underwater at depths of greater than 600 feet, and for long periods of time, you learn how to do it right.

The materials we used on electrical cable connections were to first cover it with the pliable material that we called Monkey Dung. I have seen a similar material used by hams over the years ("Coax Seal" — editor) and I am sure it is adequate. It is a pliable, tacky, putty like material that can be hand molded to completely cover the connectors. It is very similar to the material they use on RV's to seal panel and exterior skin materials. You can buy it by the roll at an RV parts supplier. I'll bet it works just fine.

This material completely encases the connector, and then is covered with a self vulcanizing tape which creates an impervious seal. The partial roll I have remaining in my shack was made by Bishop Electric of Cedar Grove, NJ. I tried to locate them recently to try and buy some more, and couldn't find them.

I have recently purchased a Scotch 3m product called 130C Linerless Rubber Splicing Tape. This is very similar to the Bishop Electric tape, but I have no long

John Ownes N7SEJ courtesy of the [NJDJA DX-Chat Reflector](#)

term, or underwater experience with it. It just looks very much like the same thing. You can then cover the self vulcanizing tape with conventional vinyl electrical tape if you wish to eliminate the tacky exterior you will be left with from the self vulcanizing tape, but it contributes little to the watertight covering.

For ham radio coax connections, I think you can eliminate the monkey dung and just use the self vulcanizing tape covered over with vinyl electrical tape. That should get the job done for the long term.

## "Doggone" Calls

courtesy of [www.ac6v.com](http://www.ac6v.com)

Generic Dog: K9DOG

Polish Dog: SPØT

Original Hot Dog: K9HOT

Pedigreed Dog: NØCUR

Russian Dog: RØVER

Argentinian Dog: LØBOS

Untamed Dog: WØLF (Isn't that N3UE's dog?)

Hungarian Dog: HØUND

Original Dog: W1ENR

French Dog: F1DO

Hollywood Dog: GØOFY

# CQ Field Day!

Linda Sue Boehmer KB3KXN courtesy of the **WACOM Ham**

It was my first Field Day, and I was not sure what to expect. When I arrived at the top of a hill in Washington County, PA (near the Fairgrounds), I first saw vehicles with call signs on their personalized plates. Then I recognized several members of my Amateur Radio Club. I soon noticed a huge antenna on a trailer, and a collection of radio equipment set up on tables on a broad porch outside our host's (a gun club) headquarters. There was also a camping tent!

Ed N3ZNI and Jacque N3ZEL invited me to sit down at one of the radios, where I immediately heard, "CQ Field Day! CQ Field Day!". Within the next hours, I personally heard or talked to people from 23 different states. The different voices and accents were so much fun to hear, from Southern draws to Texas twangs to hints of Canadian and clipped military (Maritime) voices. It was an exciting and unforgettable experience.

WACOM, my club, had three official radios set up for the entire 24 hour period, 2:00 PM local time Saturday through 2:00 PM Sunday. The equipment was powered by a row of big batteries, some of which required recharging while I was there. Cars and solar panels supplied extra juice when needed. Once I got my bearings, I noticed a collection of different antenna heights and types, which I learned were shared among the radios depending on the frequency being used. Other hams used their own equipment at times.

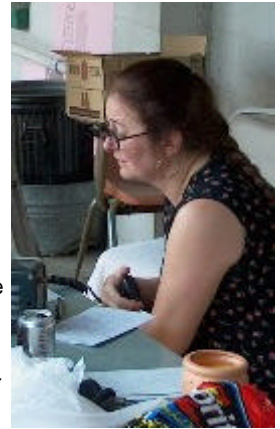
Although I had never tried it, club members let me operate the microphone, answering with the club's call sign, "WA3COM; Whisky Alpha 3 Charlie Oscar Mike" and then listening to find out if the caller heard. If the caller responded, I would reply with our Field Day information, "3A WPA". If the caller acknowledged that information, I would confirm by saying "QSL". If we hadn't already heard the caller's information, I might ask for clarification so we could

log the contact. We noticed that some contacts could tell we had already exchanged information, possibly because they were using a computer logging program. We talked about trying that next year.

During the time I was working the mike, Jim KC3HW was tuning the frequencies (20 Meters) and logging our contacts. He used the time displayed on a 24 hour digital GMT clock. The radio we used belonged to another club member, Bill KB3LIX, who helped us identify call signs and provided technical advice. Later I took a turn logging as Jim or Ed tuned and worked the mike. While I was there, Ken AA3GM was working CW at another radio and Joe N3XE was working PSK-31 on his computer station.

Some of our club members stayed the entire 24 hours, plus the time required to set up and tear down the equipment. Others, like me, dropped in at various times during Field Day (some more than once). Some worked the radios and others were content to listen. Of course, there was a grill going most of the time and there was plenty of other food too.

I had so much fun, I barely noticed the oppressive heat. I can't wait until next year, when I hope to be more involved. Maybe I will be one of the club members with a tent!! **33s!**



# Operation Twisted Rail

Kevin Smith N3HKQ

Operation Twisted Rail was a mock emergency drill conducted on July 18<sup>th</sup> in West Newton, PA, by about 20 regional law-enforcement and emergency-response agencies of Region 13 Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The scenario involved 5 terrorists hijacking a passenger train en route from Washington DC and West Newton is apparently where things went wrong for passengers. Amateur radio operators from Westmoreland, Washington, Fayette, Green, and Allegheny counties were assigned to all the major agencies involved with assisting injured passengers like fire, paramedics, ambulances, and hospitals.

Dave Demotte N3IDH and I were assigned to assist personnel representing Mon-Valley and Allegheny General Hospitals. One thing was clear; Amateur Radio operators were the only common communications link between the various agencies we were assigned to assist. I realized this when the hospital received patients that they did not know were coming because I mistakenly assumed what I heard on my radio was known to the hospital over other channels. I did not make that mistake again.

An unexpected treat for those of us at the "hospital" was to see both Stat Medevac and Angel One helicopters land and take off from our location. The crews actually spent about an hour with us which I learned was very unusual. That shows how seriously everyone took this drill. Dave and I learned a lot from this drill and you can be sure that Amateur Radio is expected to be an integral part of an actual emergency if one should happen in the Western Pennsylvania area.

(Some information in this article courtesy of the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*. See [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/search/s\\_354389.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/search/s_354389.html).)

Pictures courtesy of and Copyright ©2005 Dave DeMotte N3IDH and Kevin Smith N3HKQ.



Hospital ARES Crew



STAT MedEvac Takes Off

## N3SH Field Day Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	380	27	259	
Total Points	760	54	259	1073

### Bonus Points:

- 100% Emergency power 300
- Media Publicity 100
- Set-up in Public Place 100
- Information Booth 100
- NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC 100
- W1AW Field Day Message 100

- Satellite QSO completed 100
- Youth participation 20
- Youth operators 1
- Youth participants 1
- Submitted via the Web 50
- Non traditional mode: APRS 100

**Total Bonus Points 1,070**  
**Claimed Score 2,146**

Score compiled by Ted Huf W4ZE (thanks Ted!)  
N3SH FD Station Photo (left) courtesy of and Copyright ©2005 Kevin Smith N3HKQ.



## N3SH Field Day Score Summary:

## Numbers of Licensed

### US Amateurs

Statistics courtesy of George McCouch K3UD

As of May 14, 2000:

- Novice - 49,329
- Tech/+ - 334,254
- General - 112,677
- Advanced - 99,782
- Extra - 78,750

Total all classes - 674,792

As of July 31, 2005

- Novice - 27,975
- Tech/+ - 317,655
- General - 136,435
- Advanced - 75,812
- Extra - 106,900

Total All Classes - 664,040

## The Krassy Fund

Jim McCobb W1LLU courtesy of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Krassy K1LZ, took a fall with a 50 foot tower while on the CY9SS DXpedition. He severely injured bones in his upper leg. He continues to be in a lot of pain, but he is now resting at home.

At the request of Mark K1RX, I have set up a Krassy Fund to collect contributions to help defray Krassy's expenses that are not covered by insurance, such as the cost of his return from Canada.

You may make contributions to the fund by sending me a check payable to the Krassy Fund which will be deposited to the account set up for this purpose at the Institution for Savings in Newburyport, MA. My mailing address is Jim McCobb, 65 Coffin Street, West Newbury, MA 01985. Or, you may send the money to me via PayPal (in cash, no Credit Card payments please) and I will of course transfer it to the Krassy Fund account. My address in this case is [W1LLU@Verizon.net](mailto:W1LLU@Verizon.net).

We have decided to place a time limit on this; that being, August 21, 2005. So please send along your contribution as soon as you can. We will not by the way be posting/publishing the names of the contributors on any web site or in the YCCC Scuttlebutt or anywhere else for that matter, but I do intend to confirm to you the receipt of your contribution.

Since Krassy is known far and wide, please don't hesitate to pass the word on this. And if there any questions, likewise don't hesitate to contact me.

**Vlad UA4WHX reports that the Minister of Telecommunications for Yemen said that "that there has never been a single amateur radio operation from Yemen, if he receives an official inquiry from ARRL or any other AM. Radio Club. One - only! - authorization has been given to a sultan of Kuwait but he never operated. All others according to his and a few other officials words are pirates and illegal. No matter what documents they present and what they say."**

**"I can remember, some 40+ years ago, tapping out a "dah di dah dit — dah dah dit dah" on your car's horn when noticing another car with amateur plates. You usually got that drivers attention and a wave and a smile. Try that today. They either ignore you or look at you like you're some kind of nut. A sign of the times?"**

— Ken Bjorklund KK4BH

(Presidential Words Continued from page 1)

hosted by Jim and Patty Sanford at their place in 84 and as usual Carol Danko is taking care of the details. Please see the minutes from the July meeting for the exact date in September.

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

## DX News Briefs



Dr. David Borenstein, KA2HTV, will be traveling to Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea during the month of August. He has received written permission from the "North Korean" government to operate as **P5/KA2HTV** during his stay. While radio operating is not the primary reason for his visit, Dr. Borenstein hopes to be able to operate 1-2 hours a day and will stay an additional three days devoted entirely to radio operation. For security reasons, he will only operate SSB and primarily 20 meters. Dr. Borenstein will arrive on August 9<sup>th</sup> and depart on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. QSL requests should be sent to KK5DO. Operation from P5 is at the pleasure of the host country so the DX community should keep their collective fingers crossed that all goes well and they do not change their minds.

The ARRL has reviewed the Dr. Borenstein's plan and if and when P5/KA2HTV occurs, it will likely count.

Dr. Borenstein notes that while his operating time will be limited, the success of this operation will lead to further P5 operations in the near future. Much of the equipment being taken will remain there, pre-positioned for subsequent operations. QSL Manager KK5DO asks "Please limit your contacts to one. Many hams were not able to work Ed P5/4L4FN. Please allow those that did not get P5 before a chance to work P5 now." —NA5U via KF2TI, KK5DO, Lone Star DX Association

IN3VZE will be active "holiday style" as **7Q7CE** 28 August through 16 September., QSL via home call — IN3VZE

WØYG will be QRV as **VK9XG** from Christmas Island 23 October - 7 November, and **VK9CG** from Cocos Keeling 7 - 21 November. QSL direct (only) via home call — WØYG

EA1CNF, EA1DGZ, EC1KW, EA1DBC and EA1AAW will be QRV as **8Q7EA** for the CQ WW DX SSB Contest in October. QSL via EC1KW — EA1CNF

ON5SY will be QRV as **A52SY** 3 - 10 October. He plans to concentrate operating during European evening and weekend times. QSL via ON4ON — ON4ON

Special event station **EN4ØEKR** will be QRV 8 - 14 August to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Krvy Rig ARC. QSL via UT4EK — UT4EK

Look for **E2ØEHQ7** from 10 - 15 August from the Art for All Foundation camp. QSL via E2ØEHQ — E2ØEHQ

New Prefixes: The Federal Republic of Germany has now begun issuing **DQ** and **DR** prefix call signs. They have also begun issuing **2x1** calls to club stations. Only the **DPØ - DP2** prefixes will still be used exclusively for extra-territorial areas (such as Antarctica). There are no DI prefix call signs at present — DL1ELY

## QSL Routes

3DAØNN via AA4NN — AA4NN	OHØZ via WØMM — WØMM
4K5D via K2PF — W9OL	S21AR via JA1UT — K7ACZ
4L7O via DL7BO — WØMM	S79GG via DL2AWG — W2IRT
5WØHR via AI5P — AI5P	S9BB via OH2TA — DE1DXX
6W7RV via F8CMT — DE1DXX	S9SS via N4JR — W2IRT
9G5FD via G3XTT — NF4A	SU9NC via OM2SA — KZ2I
9G5OO via DL4WK — W2IRT	T49C via K8SIX — K8SIX
9J2CA via G3SWH — G3SWH	TA3DD via K3PD — W2IRT
A35PX via AI5P — AI5P	T18DBT via EA7FTR — W2IRT
A61AR via EA7FTR — W4UBC	TS3A via YT1AD — W2IRT
AP2NK via W3HNC — 9K2HN	TT8AMO via PA7FM — NF4A
C21DL via DJ2EH — W3UR	U29TBK via G3TBK — W9OL
C91F via AA4NN — AA4NN	XU7AAT via JA2EZD — WØMM
C91NN via AA4NN — AA4NN	XU7ABL via JA1ELY — WØMM
CO3VK/4 via IZ8EPI — DE1DXX	XWØX via JA2EZD — WØMM
ET3TK via OK1CU — W2IRT	YE3K via IZ8CCW — DE1DXX
DXØK via K7ACZ — K7ACZ	Y19OM via OM6TX — KZ2I
H44UM via JA1UMN — K7VC	ZD7F via DL9GFB — W9OL
J39AH via WA4WTG — DE1DXX	ZF2NE via W5ASP — W2IRT
J68RI via K4RG — KØRI, NØVD	ZK1APX via AI5P — AI5P
J88DR via G3TBK — W9OL	ZW8DX via PS8HF — DE1DXX

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 McCleenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.





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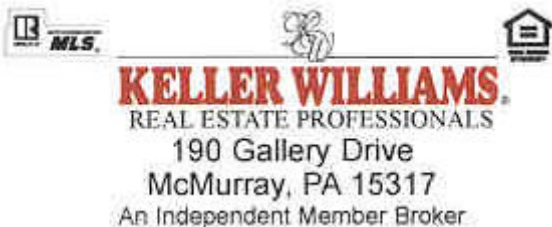


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# FCC News

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

**NEWINGTON, CT, August 2nd, 2005** — Hundreds already have filed comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) on the Commission's recent proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes. A formal 60-day comment period starts once the FCC's *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O)* in WT Docket 05-235 appears in the *Federal Register*, but all comments filed now are valid nonetheless.

Issued in response to 18 petitions for rule making — including one from the ARRL — the FCC's *NPRM&O*, released July 19, dealt only with the Morse requirement and turned away all other proposed rule changes. A random sampling of the more than 360 comments filed at this point suggests the tide is running firmly in favor of the FCC's stance. Some even praised the Commission.



"The FCC has finally come through," commented Doug Durrett, KC7DJI, a Technician class licensee. "Hats off and thumbs up to the 05-235 proposal. Get it done ASAP."

Others, such as Jesse T. Franklin, K9GO, were just as adamant that Morse code should remain a licensing requirement for those desiring HF access. "Morse code has been the foundation of the Amateur Radio Service since the very beginning," he asserted in his posting. "I feel doing away with the Morse code testing would only weaken the service."

A few suggested that eliminating Morse testing would be "the beginning of the end for Amateur Radio." As one commenter put it, dropping Element 1 would mean "continuing down the slippery slope of 'dumbing down' the Amateur Radio Service." Another asserted that passing a Morse code examination contributes to better on-the-air discipline.

Still others speaking in favor of retaining the Morse requirement called it an "important tradition," a "universal language," a "vital tool" that's useful in emergencies and — in the words of Jan Smoller, KC2CT — "the one sacred bastion left to preserve the history and continuance of the Amateur Radio Service." Many pro-Morse postings raised the specter of impending chaos on the Amateur Radio bands if the requirement goes away.

William R. Ogden, W2WO, suggested in his remarks that Morse code serves to enhance "the internal discipline of the Amateur Radio community" and is "a key element in its success." It also is a common bond among radio amateurs, he said. "Having passed a Morse code test is one of the elements creating this sense of community and dedication." Keeping the 5 WPM code test at least for Amateur Extra, he said, "means that newcomers must dedicate a little effort and discipline to the subject and will probably carry forward a little more dedication and discipline into the rest of their radio activities."

A relative handful of commenters appear to favor keeping the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra applicants only. Others asked the FCC to revisit the notion of creating a new entry-level license class — something else the ARRL and others sought — and the recommendation to stop making question

pools public. But the tenor of those who would like to see Morse code dropped for General or Extra applicants was that the requirement was "antiquated" or "anachronistic," and that CW is "just another mode."

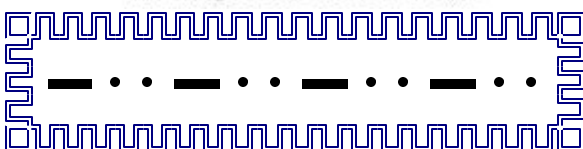
Even several licensees who'd gone through the old three-tiered system of Morse examination elements indicated they'd like to see the requirement disappear. The comment of Brent Crier, N9BC, was fairly typical of that group. "I support the removal of the Morse code requirement, even though I had to pass the 5, 13 and 20 WPM," he wrote. "CW is not going to go away like some think. If new operators want to use that mode they will learn it."

Robert A. Johnson, K3MQ, was among those characterizing Morse code as obsolete, even though he says he operates CW. "Requiring amateurs to learn a system which is antiquated meets no public service need," he remarked. "I personally use and enjoy Morse code but feel it should be an option for those interested — not a requirement."

Many, like Thomas J. Miller, W2HVK, said eliminating the Morse requirement would breathe new life into the Amateur Service. "The US could certainly use more trained radio operators considering the post 9/11 world we live in," he said. "Additional roadblocks (like CW) to upgrading to HF make no sense today."

Advanced class operator Marvin B. Smith, WA5PSA, said he "generally" favors dropping the code requirement. "I love Morse code. However, it is time for Morse code to stand or fall of its own accord as a mode," he remarked.

Based on a random sample of 135 comments, approximately 60 percent favor the elimination of the Morse code requirement for all license classes, while approximately 30 percent have asked the FCC to retain the requirement. Another 10 percent endorse keeping the Morse code as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Extra class license. The ARRL random sampling was not scientific.



## SV Voyager — Under Way At Last!

Al Herrle KA3UPY / MM & Carol Herrle

Off *The Atlantic Coast, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005*— Well we finally did it! Only 13.5 months, and 2 hurricanes after our initial drop dead date, we left the dock in West Palm Beach. Our condo is only about 60% finished but with 5 named storms already this year, we couldn't wait any longer.

Our cat, Precious, caused a 1 month delay when we found a lump that turned out to be breast cancer. She had major surgery and is finally her old self, until we took her to sea.

We left West Palm Beach on 7/12 for Ft. Pierce, only the second time we had the boat on the ocean, about 60 mi north.

All went well. We anchored and watched our first sun set. Carol was so happy she started crying. The next leg was to Amelia Is, FL, just north of Jacksonville and 220 nm, and 36 hours from Ft Pierce.

We went about 25 nm offshore to make the run. Precious was seasick for 24 hours straight. Carol, thankfully, had one of those new electronic relief bands. FYI, they work! Overnighters are not one of Carol's favorite things to do.

We only saw 2 ships through the night.

It's amazing what you see in the ocean.

Dolphins feeding and playing and sea turtles basking in the sun made the trip exciting. Going offshore is interesting. You really feel small in the vastness of the ocean and sky. The stars are brilliant, plentiful, and absolutely wondrous. Even Tommy was looking at them. The cats are still trying to figure out what's going on and can't believe all the water around them.

We arrived at Fernandina Beach about 5 PM 7/14 and dropped anchor just before a violent storm blew through. It was comforting to know Allen hasn't lost his anchoring skills as the anchor held. The wind was blowing so hard we were actually heeled over.

Fernandina Beach is a quaint historictown on the National Registry. We stopped



Photos courtesy of and Copyright ©2005 Al Herrle KA3UPY

here 18 years ago on our last cruise. You would love it here! We enjoyed the beautiful homes with their gorgeous gardens and shady nooks. The tree-lined streets, grass parking lots and vignettes of trees, shrubs and benches to sit and enjoy the shade. It reminds us of home. After walking around awhile and knowing that Emily was not going to be a threat, we decided to stay another day.

Our next leg will be a 24 hour offshore hop to Charleston, SC. We'll leave Sunday 7/17 am and then spend a couple of days recuperating and sight-seeing before we head to Cape Fear in NC. Thankfully the weather has been cooperating.

Cruising life is not all fun. Today we trekked 5 mi round trip, in 90+ heat and over 100 heat index, to Wal-Mart (the closest place) to get some seasick medication for Precious. Quaint doesn't equate to convenient. Life without a car can be grueling. If the exercise and heat doesn't kill us, it will cure us.

Our initial goal is to get safely to the Chesapeake, meet up with friends and family, regroup and head for New England. We don't think we'll make it to ME but we'll have fun trying. We have quickly learned that our bodies' ability to handle this life has changed considerably. We have to use our brains more!! Sometimes even that's a problem.

Interestingly enough, most of the people living this life are our age or older. Many have sailed around the world, some a few times and some up and down the coast and all of them love it. It's too early for us to tell, the jury is still out.

Fair winds and calm seas



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Butler Co ARA Hamfest 5<sup>th</sup> Annual WPA ARRL Section Convention

Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Butler Farm Show Grounds at Roe Airport, State Route 68, Butler PA

Talk-in on W3UDX/3 147.39 MHz

**\$5 Donation for Admission (Children Under 12 Admitted Free!) — Free Parking!**  
**Outdoor Flea Market \$5 per Vehicle/Set-Up — Indoor Flea Market \$15 per 8 Foot Table**

First Prize: Yaesu FT-897D 100 W HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver w/60 Meters

Second Prize: MFJ-259 Antenna Analyzer

Third Prize: Yaesu VX-7R 6 Meter, 2 Meter & 70 CM HT

Fourth Prize: ICOM T-90A 6 Meter, 2 Meter & 70 CM HT

Fifth Prize: Kenwood TH-K2AT 2 Meter HT

**Mobile Check-In Until Noon on 146.52 (Mobile Check-In Prize!)**

## Special Events:

ARRL Representatives from Headquarters Staff., Atlantic Division & WPA Section!

Forums on a wide range of Amateur Radio Topics!

QSL Card Checking for DXCC, Worked All States, VHF & UHF Awards!

Check the web site for more information at <http://www.qsl.net/w3udx>

Hamfest Coordinator Rich Deal WB3BFC, 110 Fortman Road, Butler PA 16002 (724) 712-3770

To Reserve Indoor Vendor Tables contact Keven Berry KF4RMA, 380 Three Degree Road, Renfrew PA 16053 (724) 586-1182 [kf4rma@arri.net](mailto:kf4rma@arri.net)



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

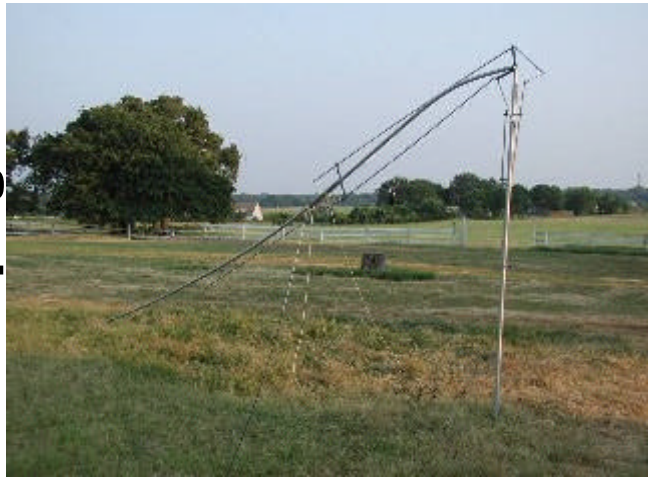
Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Inside This Issue:

- The FCC issues, finally, the NPRM to cease testing for Morse Code
- Want to know how to respond?
- Has Duquesne Light have a surprise for you, if you live in Monroeville!
- A simple 20 Meter Antenna Project!
- Impressions of a first Field Day!
- N3SH Field Day Score!

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



### ***Ah Dave, They Shoot Horses, Don't They?***

“One day a few weeks ago Jane called me outside saying that my antenna 'may be broken'. It seems some of her miniature horses took a liking to my guy wires for rubbing against. Here is the result:”

Photo courtesy of & Copyright ©2005 Dave Wagner K3LGM

## The WASHRag

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



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B  
[www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)