



Comments Deadline Set

NEWINGTON, CT, August 31st, 2005 — The deadline to submit comments on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19th, is October 31st. Reply comments are due November 14th.

The NPRM&O, which proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes, turned away several other petition requests, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class. Comment deadlines are established by the NPRM&O's publication in the *Federal Register*, which occurred August 31st.

To file on-line comments on the FCC NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Interested parties also may submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. People with disabilities may contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc) by e-mail FCC504@fcc.gov or telephone 202-418-0530 or TTY 202-418-0432.

For additional information, contact William T. Cross, Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 202-418-0680; TTY 202-418-7233. Alternative formats are available for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), via e-mail request FCC504@fcc.gov or by calling the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau: 202-418-0530, TTY 202-418-0432.

An FCC Report and Order in this proceeding is not likely until late 2005 or early 2006.

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

2005 Pennsylvania QSO Party Coming October 8th & 9th!

We're only about 6 weeks away from the 48th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party. One of the oldest and largest "fun" contests around, it's an opportunity for amateurs throughout the state to activate all 67 counties and have a blast doing it!

Complete rules for the contest will be in next month's issue. In the meantime, why not give some thought to getting "radio active" with the club next month, either individually or as part of one of the club stations?

More details at the September club meeting!

Next Meeting: September 8th, 2005

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, September 8th, 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

Here it is September and the summer is nearly over. Where did it go? Among others, I had several ham radio projects that I had hoped to tackle this summer and I only finished the easy ones. One project that is pending is my X band transverter kit. I just could not get started on it because I did not want to stay in the house. But as the days get shorter my reluctance to get started should subside.



We do have one more summer event on our schedule, our annual picnic. It is coming up on Sunday September 18th and like last year will be hosted by Jim and Pat Sanford at their home in 84, PA. Please let Carol Danko, KB3GMN know if you are coming and will bring a covered dish. One thing we all can see is the progress Jim is making on his 100-ft tower. As I write this Jim is making plans to pour concrete for the guy anchors and the base. Jim if we can help you in any way, don't be shy to ask.

A club member asked me the other day if an Elmer night for this fall or winter could be organized. He would like to be coached on passing the Extra exam, but he said that an Elmer night could be any number of things going on at the same time. I think it is a good idea for some time in November or January so I'll bring this up at the next meeting. Topics you would like to include in an Elmer night are welcome

Don't forget that **WASH's** favorite event of the year, the PA QSO Party is coming up. This year it is the

(Presidential Words Continued on page 6)

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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:**

- CA QSO Party
Oct. 1st & 2nd
- PA QSO Party
Oct. 8th & 9th
- WPA Repeater
Council Annual
Elections
October 16th
- WACOM
Hamfest
November 6th
- ARRL 160 Meter
Contest Dec.
2nd, 3rd & 4th
- WASH Holiday
Party Dec. 8th
- ARRL 10 Meter
Contest Dec.
10th & 11th
- 6th Annual
WASH 2 Meter
Contest
January 14th
- WASHFest 2006
February 26th

September 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	2 Elco ARS Meeting	3 RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills Elmer Net W3PIE Gabfest
4 Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	5 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 WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	9	10 NHARC/Breezeshooters VE 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
11 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net Butler Hamfest	12 Sum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	13 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawny Area ARC Mtng 2 Rivers ARC VE Exams North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN 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 Uniontown ARC Net	16 Quad Co ARC Meeting	17 Horseshoe ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net WASH Breakfast
18 Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net WASH Picnic	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 Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Meeting S H B P & M Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting	21 Allegheny Co SKYWarn Class Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	22 Uniontown ARC Net	23	24 North Hills ARC Elmer Net Mid-Atlantic VHF Conference
25 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net The Great Race	26 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	27 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	28 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting North Hills ARC Activity Nt. Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	29 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	30	10/1 RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills Elmer Net California QSO Party

WASH 2005 OFFICERS

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS & BEACONS:

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

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

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

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The WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. was founded on August 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 October 20th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, October 20th, 2005, 6:30 PM**, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$14.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, January 19th, 2006
 (tentative) Thursday, April 20th, 2006
 Thursday, July 20th, 2006
 Thursday, October 19th, 2006

Late August, summer winding down, and another cool & rainy Saturday morning meeting of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** to **Dukes Restaurant**, Baptist Road, Bethel Park on August 27th. The faithful drying off this month included KB3FNM & Mary Lou, N3DFK, K3VX, W8LEV, KB3CPI, WN3VAW, and N3HKQ & Peg. (By the by, **Dukes Restaurant** is now open for breakfasts on the weekends, but the sign is wrong — they open at 8 AM, not 7 AM, which almost led to a last-minute relocation to the **Beach House**, but gave Larry a chance to hobnob with the cook and staff right before opening!) Topics of the day included The Steelers pre-season game, treatments, spacing out kids, the Pa QSO Party, having a "bad food" day, IC-746's & 14.070, pumpkin pancakes, newsgroups, digipeaters, new DVD's, organ transplants, and more that ye editor missed recording as he had to swallow his breakfast fast and head in to work... so it goes...

So don't be a stranger! Come to the October breakfast, currently scheduled for **The Country Fixin's**, on Route 980 in Cecil, just on the other side of Canonsburg, September 24th, followed by a return to **Dukes Restaurant**, Baptist Road, Bethel Park (just past 84 Lumber and across from Millennium Park) on October 29th. See you there!

Correction: In last month's newsletter, due to an editing error, Randy KB3KGP should have been identified as a member of the tower trailer committee. (Thanks NØVLR for pointing this out!)

Injured Reserve List: Jack K3FZ had been recovering from some health problems for awhile now, but we were saddened to hear that he had a few new ones pop up. Last we heard was that he s been scheduled for another procedure. Really hope all has gone well! Although Jack has been primarily a V/UHF and EME op the last few years, he was one of the top CW operators during one of the heydays of the K3CR contest station back in the 1970's. Get well soon!

Tower Project Fundraiser: Paul NØVLR and Randy KB3KGP will be making Wood Call Signs, and will start selling them at a table at this month's Butler Hamfest. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of a portable tower for the club by next Field Day. Tentative price will be in the neighborhood of \$10 each. If interested, please contact them at n0v1r@comcast.net or kb3kgp@comcast.net and indicate what you'd like carved on yours. They will be set up at a table inside one of buildings. If you're going to the hamfest, please consider stopping by the table and giving them a hand for a few minutes (even spell them for a touch so that they can spend their own money elsewhere!)

The Annual Club Picnic is coming up the week after the Butler Hamfest. If you haven't already done so and are planning to go, please contact Carol KB3GMN and let her know how many you're bringing with you and what side dish or dessert you can bring along. (And someone please bring along a camera since ye editor has to work and can't make it— nutz!) Thanks again to our hosts, Jim WB4GCS & Patty KC4WTT for making their home in Eighty Four, PA available to the club members!

Radio Astronomy: **WASH** members are invited to a Star Party at the Amateur Astronomy Association of Pittsburgh's Mingo Park Observatory on the evenings of September 9th & 10th. More information about this and related activities of the AAAP will be discussed at the September club meeting.

Starting early this month, the popular ARRL e-mail forwarding service will be adding spam filtering and virus scanning to messages passed through their servers. This was made possible following a switch in vendors. The ARRL cautions members using the forwarding service to continue to protect their PC's with "appropriate security software"

The new features are expected to reduce the amount of junk e-mail that long-time users of the forwarding service have sometimes had to tolerate.

On behalf of the American Red Cross, the ARRL is seeking experienced Amateur Radio emergency volunteers to help supplement communication for Red Cross feeding and sheltering operations in Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle — as many as 200 locations in all.

Special consideration will be given to operators who have successfully completed the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course training (Level I minimum) to serve as team leaders. These volunteer operators will help to provide communication and equipment for relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Volunteers may face hardship conditions without the usual amenities and will need to provide their own transportation to the marshaling area.

Working in cooperation with the ARRL, <http://katrina.ab2m.net/> will now be handling all volunteer sign ups for the Katrina Relief effort. If you have already entered your information to Katrina@arri.org, your information will be forwarded to AB2M to avoid duplication.

Katrina@arri.org should be used for all other inquiries to the ARRL regarding Hurricane Katrina.

WASHNet 2005 NCS Schedule

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

Kevin Smith N3HKQ, President, **WASH**

Kevin, N3HKQ, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours. There were 28 members and 1 guest in attendance. Our guest at the meeting was Joe..

A **moment of silence** was observed for recent silent keys and other deserving persons.

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the July 2005 meeting as published in the August 2005 newsletter. The motion was voted on and passed.

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark reported the club's account balances.

Secretary (I): Kevin, N3HKQ said that he would take notes of the meeting but that he wanted a volunteer to take the job for the rest of the year. If no one volunteered by the end of the meeting, he would ask someone and would not take no for an answer.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Jacque announced that Lorrie, KB3GMU upgraded to Extra and Randy, KB3KGP upgraded to General at the last VE session. Also a gentleman from Ohio upgraded to General.

Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL, & KB3FZU): Frank, KB3FZU reported that the Scenery Hill remote site had its power supply replaced so it should be more reliable. Electric bills for June and July were submitted for payment. A work party will be scheduled before winter to paint the building.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Nothing to report.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): "Give me money" for the 50/50.

Public Service (N3RDV):

- Larry, K3VX reported that the 2005 Vintage Grand Prix raised over \$1 million and the communications went well.
- Dave, N3IDH and Kevin, N3HKQ reported that the ARES Emergency drill "Twisted Rails", conducted in West Newton, PA, Westmoreland County went pretty well and Amateur Radio made a good showing of itself. Amateur Radio proved to be the only common communications link between the various law enforcement, emergency care, fire, and hospital units.
- Dave, N3IDH reported that he would be net control for communications for the Heart Association Labor Day 5K Walk/Run held in Washington, PA. He requested ham volunteers to assist.

Contests (W4ZE): Nothing to report.

Activities (K3VX): This year's club picnic will again be held at Jim and Patty Sanford's home in 84, PA on Sunday, September 18, 2005. The picnic will be coordinated by Patty, KC4WTT and Carol, KB3GMN. A motion was made by Bill, W3WH to authorize and expenditure of up to \$200 to cover purchase of meat, buns, snacks, and beverages and seconded by Jim, WB4GCS. The motion was approved by voice vote. Attendees are reminded to bring their own folding chairs and covered dishes.

PA QSO party plans were discussed:

- WA3SH will again operate from Heritage Reservation thanks to Rick's, KB3IAC efforts to reserve the Administration building. We may not be able to stay in one of the homes this year due to use by paying groups. Rick will see to it that we have somewhere to lay our heads at night.
- N3SH will operate this year from Armstrong County.
- N3ZNI and K3LGM will operate mobile.
- W4ZE will operate from his home in Washington County.
- WASH was asked to sponsor the High Power WPA Section award for the PA QSO Party with a donation of \$35.00. N3ZNI made the motion, seconded by W3WH, and passed by voice vote.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): No report.

President's Report (N3HKQ): See Secretary's Report.

Tower Trailer Committee: Cochairmen Randy, KB3KGP and Paul, NØVLR reported on their investigation to date which included pricing a new tower and trailer sold by Aluma Tower, sources for used boat trailers, and their efforts to solicit donations. After much discussion it was suggested that a set of functional requirements must be agreed upon first before proceeding down any particular path. The committee chairman will circulate an email on the reflector for members to comment on functional requirements and report back at the next meeting. Dan, KB3HVN offered to professionally letter a sign on the trailer for any sponsor who donates to

WASH Spotlight: AMTRAK?

No, but if you've always wondered what the modified rail dining car over at **Duke's Tavern** looked like from the inside... starting from left, KB3FNM,



Mary Lou, WN3VAW, KB3CPI, W8LEV, K3VX, N3DFK, N3HKQ & Peg. And thanks to our very understanding waitress for snapping the photo on Kevin's camera!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2005 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

Through July 30th, 2005

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 6)

Motorola's "Powerline LV" BPL Now At W1AW courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

BPL has come to ARRL Headquarters, and preliminary indications are that the newly installed Motorola Powerline LV system will prove Amateur Radio-friendly. Motorola approached ARRL last fall seeking input on a BPL design that could avoid many or most of the interference problems that have plagued some other BPL systems. This past May, Motorola introduced its Powerline LV wireless-to-low voltage BPL solution at the United Telecom Council's "Telecom 2005." The ARRL said at the time that it was "encouraged" by Motorola's approach but reserved judgment until it had the chance to see a system up close. A Motorola Powerline LV system was put into operation at Maxim Memorial Station W1AW this week.

"Theory is great, but the final proof is in how things work out in practice," says ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who's been working with Motorola Principal Staff Engineer Dick Illman, AH6EZ. It was an offhand suggestion from Hare that led Motorola to offer to install its system at ARRL to gauge its compatibility with Amateur Radio. Wanting to get as much firsthand information as possible about the performance of the Motorola system, the ARRL readily agreed.

Motorola says its Powerline LV system, which unites its Canopy wireless broadband Internet platform with enhanced ham band-notching HomePlug technology, drastically reduces the potential for widespread BPL interference. Illman says it does this by restricting the application of high-frequency RF to low-voltage (220 V ac) power lines instead of to medium-voltage wires that line many residential streets.

In addition, Motorola took the HomePlug modem concept to the next step by adding tunable hardware filters to deepen the notches and improve the immunity of the system to nearby ham transmitters.

At ARRL, a Motorola Canopy wireless link has been set up between ARRL Headquarters and W1AW across the parking lot. The system's connected into the League's local area network on the Headquarters side and into a 220 V ac power drop on the W1AW end. Once the system was up and running, Hare and Illman spent several days checking whether the system affected reception on the Amateur Radio bands at W1AW.

"Although more testing needs to be done over the coming weeks, the initial results for Amateur Radio were positive," Hare said. "While it would be hard to envision a BPL system closer to more antennas and receivers, we found only a few dB of BPL noise on one ham band using the highest-gain antenna at W1AW aimed right at the W1AW building."

Hare said that on all other bands and antennas, the BPL noise did not change S-meter readings, nor did it affect readings on the Rohde and Schwarz analyzer and receiver used to make measurements. "This proactive step by Motorola has shown that they are serious about interference issues," said Hare. "More importantly, Motorola has shown that it is possible to achieve enough filtering to protect Amateur Radio under typical conditions."

Hare and Illman also looked into the Powerline LV system's immunity to the interference from nearby transmitters. As they were testing the system, Hare recounts, W1AW fired up its bulletin transmissions, putting out with more than 1000 W simultaneously on seven bands. Hare says that "much to everyone's delight," data rates via the Powerline LV system connection didn't change after W1AW began transmitting.

"I could hardly imagine a more difficult environment, with part of the BPL-system wiring 30 feet from W1AW's antennas," Hare remarked, "but the system continued as if the station wasn't even on the air." Hare says that based on what he's seen so far, Amateur Radio operators should be able to operate fixed and mobile in close proximity to a Motorola Powerline LV installation. The Powerline LV system will remain at ARRL while Hare continues to test the system.

Illman says Motorola is pleased to be working with ARRL on the project, which is being operated under Part 5 Experimental license WC9XGC. "From the beginning of this project, the ARRL staff was upfront with us, and we with them," he said. "We relied on their input and designed a system that we were confident would work exactly as we found here this week."

Illman says that even though the early results were very encouraging, he's learned a lot in the process and has a few ideas on how to make Motorola's product even better.

His trip also marked his first chance to visit ARRL Headquarters in his 37 years as a ham. He said he was thrilled to see the operation, meet the staff and operate from W1AW.

Hare said the League remains committed to protecting Amateur Radio spectrum and hopes that this early success will encourage other BPL manufacturers to work *with* Amateur Radio, not against it. "I want to extend my thanks to Motorola for working proactively with ARRL," he said. "I think that together, we have made this first step a good one."

My First & Second Crystal Radios Vic Chiarappa W6TH courtesy of www.eham.net

My ham radio experience started off with a store bought crystal radio, a store by the name of Cyclone, which was similar to Radio Shack of today. The cost of this crystal radio was sixty-five cents and was completely built. The year was 1928; I was just under six years of age.

This crystal set had a 1 1/2 inch diameter coil with some 200 turns and had a ball slider that would short out the turns as it was tuned to a higher frequency. There was no capacitor for fine-tuning and tuned very broad.

The very first antenna I used was called a spider antenna and that is what it looked like — A Hugo Gernsback design. The first station I heard was WOR and then followed many others like WABC, WHN and WMCA.

As I shortened the turns, then came this airplane pilot who gave his location as being over Port Chester, NY. To my surprise came the ham radio operators. I listened for several weeks to these ham operators and was overjoyed with their conversations and of course was all radio talk, oscillators, doublers and antennas included. Which were the very best tubes to use for the receivers and the transmitters, etc.

Now came my second crystal radio set, which was home brew and to my knowledge at that time, best for my pocket book. I first wound my own coil, then found a variable capacitor and a nice board to mount all on.

Next came the crystal detector, I do not want to use the one from the store bought, I then went to the library and picked out a book on chemistry. I found that the Galena Crystal was made from sulfur and lead by nature. I said to myself, why can't I do the same. I went to the drugstore and asked the Pharmacist for sulfur. The Pharmacist asked me whether I want the white or the yellow. I was stunned by that question. I told the Pharmacist that I didn't know and wanted to make a crystal detector for a Crystal Radio. After a short discussion it turned out that I would need the yellow sulfur and the white would not work.

I took the sulfur home and went for my first engineering design, the crystal

detector. I placed the yellow sulfur into a aluminum bottle cap, heated and melted the lead, which was from a wheel balancing lead, melted the lead in a large table spoon over the gas stove and slowly poured the lead into the cap, coughing and choking from the smoke and the odor. Be careful of this!

Put it all together, antenna, hooked my high impedance headphones and nothing heard. I needed a .001 mfd capacitor across the headphones and low and behold I am a shortwave listener.

I gave the word out to my friends and then many followed the same path to shortwave listening. Next my one tube regenerative Armstrong detector, which led me into ham radio.

What was your experience?

New Wi-Fi DX Record Set!

During the 2005 "Defcon WiFi Shootout," a team of hams made a successful, unamplified 11 Mb/s 802.11b connection of 124.9 miles — and held it for over 3 hours!

More information and pictures at <http://www.enterpriseitplanet.com/networking/news/article.php/3524491> and <http://pasadena.net/shootout05/>

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 August 31, 2005

- Novice - 27,781
- Tech/+ - 317,661
- General - 135,970
- Advanced - 75,293
- Extra - 107,005

Total All Classes - 663,710

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

this project.

Old Business: No report.

New Business: Paul, NØVLR volunteered to fill in as VP/Secretary for the rest of 2005. A new VP/Secretary will be elected in November to complete the term in 2006.

Good of the Order:

- Randy, KB3KGP has begun a project to make wooden call signs as a gift for members of the club. Several examples were shown and handed out. Dan, KB3HVN made a motion that members donate \$5.00 each for their call sign to the tower trailer project. The motion was seconded by Harold, KB3CPI and the motion passed on a voice vote. It was stressed that the wooden call signs were a gift from Randy, KB3KGP and that a donation to the tower trailer project was strictly voluntary and should be given anonymously. No record of who donated will be kept.
- Carol, KB3GMN offered to arrange the Christmas party again this year but suggested a change in venue from Al's Café.. She will investigate new locations and report back at the September club meeting.
- Jacque, N3ZEL invited WASH members to WACOM's next meeting on September 1, 2005 to listen to their speaker, Carl Stevenson, WK3C who is running for the ARRL Atlantic Division Director position. This meeting will be held at the Washington County Building, Room 102, Washington.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by everyone, and seconded by everyone. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:25.

Fellowship: Jan and Rick Bell brought snacks and two flavors of Rita's Italian Ice for club members to enjoy. MM MM!

(Presidential Words Continued from page 1)

weekend of October 8 and 9 and we so far have three fixed stations and a mobile set to participate. It is lots of fun and you are welcome to participate at any of the fixed sites in Washington, Fayette, or Armstrong counties, or participate from your home station. To hear the final arrangements you will have to come to the September meeting. Don't miss it.

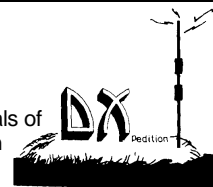
Finally our friend from Upper St. Clair High School, Pat Palazzolo ex-KA3WZP recently asked if we could assist with two upcoming events. The first event is an International Day to be held on November 30, 2005 in the same room where we did ARISS last year. She would like to have a 45-minute presentation on the International aspects of Amateur Radio. It is possible that Mike Fincke, the ISS astronaut that we communicated with during the ARISS QSO last year, will attend as well. Pa is anxious for him to meet us. Ron, WN3VAW and I agreed to help with that but it does not have to be just us. Your ideas for this are welcome.

The second event is her gifted students studying to take the Technician test, with code. This course will include her students making their own Morse code keys. WASH is asked to assist with the course and conduct the test session sometime in February. Pat also said that she will pass the test for a new license.

So as summer is winding up, we begin to see that things don't slow down for WASH. See you there!

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ, President
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

DX News Briefs



The operation by P5/KA2HTV did not occur due to miscommunications between Dr. Borenstein and officials of the DPRK. The death of his guide may have also been a factor.

The miscommunications developed when a Democratic People's Republic of Korea Cultural Relations official issued the operating permit, while the government's Telecommunications and Posts officials, had not formally processed KA2HTV's request for a permit to operate. Both agencies are part of the North Korean government.

Dr. Borenstein was planning on beginning his full time P5 operations on August 20, when DPRK officials suddenly called him into a meeting. "They told me the person who gave the authority in the committee should not have given it because of a mix up with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Posts," he said. "Up until then I had no idea that I would not be allowed to operate" as government officials had given no hint that the operating authority issued previously was not valid. "I was able to demonstrate amateur radio to these same government officials and showed them how it would benefit the country." The trip is not considered a failure since Amateur Radio was not its primary purpose (delivery of medical supplies) and that he did have an opportunity to discuss Amateur Radio with the government officials. A future operation is still possible! — Lone Star DXA

The 2006 3YØX Dxpedition to Peter I Island remains on track for February 2006. A few slots for operators remain available. Further details are available on their web site at www.peterone.com — KØIR, K4UEE, OPDX

The K7C Dxpedition to Kure remains on target for a mid-September activation. More information is available on their web site at <http://www.cordell.org/htdocs/KURE/> — NØAX

A large group of Dutch amateurs will be going to Malta (EU-023). They will operate on 80-6 (possibly also on 160m) CW, SSB and digital modes as 9HØVRZ between 10 September and 2 October. QSL via PB9ZR — PB9ZR, 425 DXN

LA9VDA reports that the 15-18 September LA6Q operation from Svenner Island (EU-061) [425DXN 747] has been cancelled owing to a number of problems. However LA5UF, LA6YEA, LA8AJA and LA9VDA will operate (on 17-80 metres CW, SSB and some RTTY) from Helligvaer Island (EU-062) on 19-26 October. QSL via LA9VDA — LA9VDA, 425 DXN

Special calls YU15ARDF and 4N15ARDF will be in use during the 15th IARU Region 1 ARDF Championship through 8 September, and afterwards through the remainder of the year. QSL both via YU1SRS — 425 DXN

As of 30 August, all cards for VKØDX from Davis Station have been sent out. If you do not receive your card by the end of October, e-mail Finn at vk0dx@hotmail.com. Finn has closed the PO Box previously in use, and he is unable to use the QSL Bureau — VK4LL

K4BAI is now the QSL manager for CY9A, replacing N5VL (SK) — K4BAI
SP9FUU is not the QSL manager for V8NOW — SP9FUU

QSL Routes

3D2RR via HA8IB — W2IRT	J68AS via N9AG — W2IRT
3GØYM via LA6EIA — JF1LZQ	J68ID via W8QID — W2IRT
4K5D via K2PF — 9K2HN	RØK via RZ3EC — PT7WA
6V6U via K3IPK — 9K2HN	RK2FWA via DK4VW — W2IRT
6W8CK via DH7WW — W9OL	TA3J via TA3YJ — TA3J
6Y5RV via N1QAE — VA5DX	Ti8CBT via EA7FTR — W9OL
7P8ZZ via K4WPX — K8SIX	TT8BZ via IK3GES — IK3GES
9M2BG via VR2BG — W9OL	TO7C via F9IE — N1NK
9V9HQ via N5ID — 9K2HN	VP2V/DL7DF via DL7UFR —
9Y4W via YL2GM — W2IRT	KB8NTY
C91Z via ZS6WPX — NKØS	XE1ZVO via EA7HBC — W2IRT
CP4BT via EA7HBC — W2IRT	XT2JZ via SM5DJZ — W2IRT
ET3TK via OK1CU — JJ1BDX	XX9X via XX9BB — KZ2I
FW5ZL via FR5ZL — SM5DQC	YK1BA via N5FF — KU4BP
G11W via UT5SI — KB8NTY	ZD8AD via GØJLX — NKØS
HC1MD via K8LJG — W2IRT	ZF2AH via W6VNH — W2IRT
HVØA via IKØFVC — W2IRT	ZWØS via PS7JN — K5WW

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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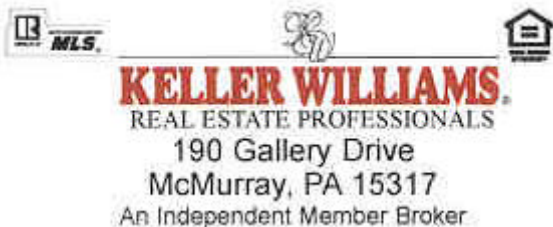


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FCC News

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

NEWINGTON, CT, August 30th, 2005 — The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has set aside its grant of license renewal to Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine. According to correspondence the FCC released this week, the WTB took the action soon after it had granted Baxter's renewal application, received on July 22 via the W5YI VEC.



"The application has been set aside for enforcement review," Associate Chief of Licensing Operations Tracy Simmons told Baxter in a July 25 letter from the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office. Simmons said the WTB took the action in accordance with 47 CFR §1.113(a). That section says: "Within 30 days after public notice has been given of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority, the person, panel, or board taking the action may modify or set it aside on its own motion." Baxter's Amateur Radio license is set to expire October 17th, 2005.

On July 31st, Baxter responded to Simmons' set aside notification to assert that the FCC had "intentionally violated my constitutional rights of due process" by not renewing his timely filed renewal application. Baxter asserted his "legal position" to continue operating K1MAN indefinitely, until a final legal determination in the case. His response to the FCC, received August 8th, was on the letterhead of the American Amateur Radio Association.

In early June, the FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)* proposing to fine Baxter \$21,000. In the *NAL*, the FCC alleges that Baxter has violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Service Rules. The list includes rules proscribing interference with ongoing communications, transmitting communications in which he has a pecuniary interest, failure to provide information the FCC requested, engaging in broadcasting, and failure to exercise control of his station.

The FCC has not yet affirmed the *NAL* by issuing a *Forfeiture Order*. In his June 12th reply to the *NAL*, Baxter denied "any apparent liability for forfeiture in the amount of \$21,000 or any other violations of FCC rules, state law or federal law." His response also cited the fifth and sixth amendments of the US Constitution and requested "all documentation regarding the alleged apparent liability and criminal violations" to prepare a defense.

FCC Technology Advisory Council (TAC) members Greg Lapin, N9GL, and Dewayne Hendricks, WA8DZP, delivered presentations at the TAC's July 29th meeting on the topic of shared spectrum. Lapin, who helped organize the gathering, discussed "Lessons Learned about Spectrum Sharing in the Amateur Radio Service." The TAC's purpose is to provide technical advice to the FCC and to make recommendations on issues and questions the Commission presents to the panel. Lapin says his talk "was very well received, and there were many comments of respect for Amateur Radio and hams' ability to work together to share frequencies." Hendricks focused on amateur experimentation on the air and discussed how hams once worked in concert with the FCC to

study things that they wanted to know about. He also told the story of the growth of spread spectrum in Amateur Radio. Lapin says that when TAC Chairman Bob Lucky posed the question, "How do we organize amateurs to do all this work with no compensation?" he replied, "Excite them about the new technology." The entire TAC meeting is available for viewing on the Web at <http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/mt072805.ram>.

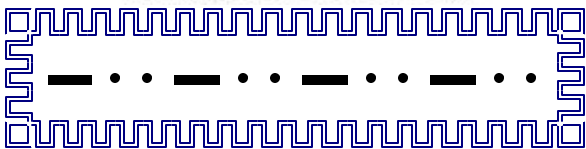
I've just finished a QSO with young Tamara, a student at LBJ High School in Austin, Texas. She seemed nervous, excited, a loss for words. Those same feelings I had at her age during my first QSO(s). As a "collector" of Special Event QSL's and certificates, I wondered afterwards if this QSO constitutes a "Special Event".

For that matter, are there any criteria for this upstart hobby within a hobby? Many of us avidly take part in this pursuit every weekend. It seems to be a "slow contest", something that we can take part in at our leisure. It seems to be something we can chase after on weekends, without losing Friday night, Saturday and Sunday to contest activities.

I have W1AW's QSL card filed in my Special Event QSL album. Some might claim that this station isn't a "special event". I beg to differ. This station is a 364 day a year special event, dedicated to the founding of ham radio!

So will I classify young Tamara's QSO this morning as a "Special Event"? If it was HER first QSO, maybe it was special to her. And it meets the most criteria for a SE; special call sign, unique QTH, sponsored by a club or organization.

— Bill Lauterbach WA8MEA



WACOM HAMFEST 2005

Free Coffee Courtesy of Ham Radio Insurance Associates

**Washington County
Fairgrounds**

Sunday, November 6th

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on W3CYO/R

145.490 & 443.300 MHz

VE Testing starting at 10:00 AM

Contact Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL 724-746-9235, n3zel@fyi.net

First Prize: Yaesu FT-857D HF Radio
Second Prize: Yaesu FT-7800 Dual Band Mobile
Third Prize: Yaesu VX-5R Tri-Band HT
Fourth Prize: Satellite Radio

Check www.wacomarc.org for updates



Admission: \$3.00

Table Indoors \$10.00 — Additional Tables at \$5.00 each
Tailgating Spaces Available @ \$5.00 Each

For More Information: Jack Dayton, KA3ZLR @ 724-746-4669

Or: Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI @ 724-746-9235 n3zni@arrrl.net

28th Annual Butler Co ARA Hamfest

5th Annual WPA ARRL Section Convention

Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Sunday, September 11th 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@arrrl.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 !)
↓

1st Qtr Jan-Mar 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept 4th Qtr Oct-Dec

- (F1) Full Membership: \$20.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 \$5.00
- (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: \$10.00 \$7.50 \$5.00 \$2.50
- (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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

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

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:

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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:

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c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
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Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US
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Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- Volunteers Needed to provide communications during Katrina recovery efforts (see Page 3)
- Comments Deadlines Set on FCC NPRM&O regarding the end of CW Testing
- BPL invades ARRL HQ
- Remembering That First Crystal Radio

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



"Show Me The Money!"

Club members lining up at the August meeting to purchase 50/50 tickets.

Photo courtesy of & Copyright ©2005 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

The WASHRag

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Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
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