



Contests & Hamfests!

With the arrival of 2005, the attention of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** turns to our first big two events of the year.

First up comes our Fifth Annual 2 Meter contest. Held on the 2nd Saturday Evening of January (local time, of course, since that's actually Sunday morning UTC), it's attracted a large assortment of local amateurs to fire up their rigs and try to see just how well 2 meter propagation can be under everyday conditions. With about a week to go as this newsletter goes to press, there's still plenty of time to "talk it up!" on local repeaters and other nets and help encourage our friends and neighbors in Allegheny and adjoining counties to join us in this fun and exciting event!

Please note in this year's rules the caution on simplex frequencies, as we heard indirectly from the WPA Repeater Coordinator that some contest operators were allegedly interfering with repeaters that are now using "standard" simplex channels for inputs and/or outputs. (No repeater owner has yet said anything to the club or the Contest Committee, incidentally). Also note that the Contest Committee has decided not to offer coffee mugs this year due to declining interest.

But the contest is merely a prelude to the biggest non-operating event for the **WASH** club, namely, **WASHFest 2005** on February 27th. Can you believe that this year is our tenth annual hamfest? Tenth! When you consider the number of long established hamfests that have disappeared or diminished in this last decade, it is a tribute to the hard work of all of the club members, and especially our hamfest chairs, who have worked on this event over the years — from publicity, handing out flyers, talking to vendors, setting up the hall, even something as simple as parking cars in the lot — that our event has persevered and prospered into one of the "must" ham events of the winter months, if not of the entire year.

WASHFest 2005 needs all of our support to be it's usual success. On the day, we always need help setting up tables, helping vendors in and out, talking in attendees on the repeaters, parking cars, selling tickets, and doing whatever else it takes to put on a great event. But what happens before is as important if not more so. Going to another hamfest or club even in January or February? Bring some flyers, talk up the event, invite people to come. (Especially the vendors! Many aren't aware of our hamfest since there used to be a conflict on our date with an Ohio hamfest that's now later in the year). Work someone in the 2 meter contest? Put a flyer in with your QSL, or otherwise invite them to come. Checking into a net? Talk it up!

The best way to make our hamfest successful again is to remind amateurs that after being cooped up all winter, this is a great time to get together, sit down with friends, relax, shoot the breeze, and maybe brag JUST a little bit! (And the free coffee, thanks again Bill W3WH & HRIA, is a big incentive too!)

And... yes, we'll ask the Committee to promise to print more main prize tickets this year, so that we don't run out... well, we hope we do, but you know...

But we can't do it without you. So, hopefully, we'll see you at the meeting, on the air, and at **WASHFest 2005** on February 27th!

Next Meeting: January 13th, 2004

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, September 9th, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Our guest speaker will be Steve Lane W3SRL with a presentation on EchoLink. The upcoming 2 meter contest and **WASHFest 2005** will also be discussed.

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

One of the first things Bill Hill told me after being elected PreHsident was that it was one of the easier jobs in **WASH**. This was due, he explained, to the great members who pitched in when things needed done. I know that because I have seen it first hand and I am counting on the members continuing. I was first attracted to **WASH** in 2001 when I gave an AMSAT presentation at a club meeting. The impression I took away from that night was that **WASH** was very active in actual hands on radio operation and knew how to have fun. Since joining **WASH** I have never been disappointed.

WASH began in 2004 to look toward community service as an outlet when we assisted the Boy Scouts of the Pittsburgh Area Council with the now annual Radio Merit Badge seminar and Jamboree on the Air. Continuing in that vein, our next Field Day will be held at the Boy Scout area in Washington County's Mingo Park where we also hope to host some scouts. I would also like to see some follow-up to our spectacular ARISS work with Pat Palazzolo and Upper St. Clair School District. Some thoughts along these lines were to maintain periodic contacts and even help establish an Amateur Radio club at USC. Contacts like these with young people are invaluable in bringing new blood into the Amateur Radio Service and I would really love to hear your thoughts on how these can be accomplished.

Skills development is another important area that I hope to pursue with **WASH**. An example of this is the first microwave presentation given by Jim Sanford, WB4GCS. There is a second presentation to come but Jim informed me that he needs another ham with 10 GHz transmit and receive capability to properly pull it off. That second ham is me folks, so look for part 2

(Presidential Words Continued on page 3)

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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:**

- W3C Special Event Station, Washington Crown Center. QSL via N3ZNI
- ARRL DX CW Contest Feb. 19th & 20th
- 10th Annual WASHfest 2005, February 27th
- ARRL DX SSB Contest March 5th & 6th
- 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest March 13th
- Dayton Hamvention, May 20th – 22nd
- Breezeshooters Hamfest June 5th
- ARRL Field Day June 25th & 26th

January 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 ARRL Kid's Day Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	3 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	4 Butler Co ARA Mtng Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	5 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	6 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	7 Elco ARS Meeting	8 WASH 2M Contest Skyview RS VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
9 ARRL RTTY Contest OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	10 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	11 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Ft. Venango M&K Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtng North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	12 North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VFHS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	13 WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	14	15 Mercer County ARC VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
16 Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	17 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	18 Steel City ARC Meeting S H B & M Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net	19 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	20 WASH VE Test Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	21 Quad Co ARC Meeting	22 Indiana Co ARC VE Test WACOM Traffic Handling Seminar North Hills ARC Elmer Net
23 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	24 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	25 Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	26 North Hills ARC Activity Night Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	27 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	28	29 WASH Breakfast CQ 160 M Contest Nittany ARC
30 CQ 160 M Contest OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	31 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	2/1 Butler Co ARA Mtng Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	2/2 Groundhog Day Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net	2/3 <i>Be Nice to Your Editor Day</i> WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	2/4 Elco ARS Meeting	2/5 RA Erie VE Test Beaver Valley ARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
W3C Special Event Station @ Washington Sports Show						

WASH 2005 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Kevin Smith N3HKQ
VP / Secretary Steve Lane W3SRL
VP / Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager Paul Lusardi NØVLR
NP2SH QSL Manager Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster Bob Sanford AA3FI
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI
WASH FM Net Manager Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHfest 2005 Committee Steve Lane W3SRL, Chairman
Carol Danko KB3GMN
Bill Hill W3WH
Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Larry Comden K3VX
Ted Huf W4ZE
Activities & Operating Events Carol Danko KB3GMN
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 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 N3BV/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Shawn Djernes NØPEU for providing space on-line for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at www.washarc.org or www.djernes.org/washrag

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test January 20th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 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, April 21st, 2005
 Thursday, July 21st, 2005
 (tentative) Thursday, October 20th, 2005
 Thursday, January 19th, 2006

Kid's Day will be Sunday, January 2nd and will run from 1800 to 2400 UTC. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.350-21.400 and 28.380-28.400 MHz plus 2 meter repeaters. There's no limit on operating time, and the recommended exchange is name, age, location and favorite color.

Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people to get acquainted with Amateur Radio, and perhaps sparking a lifelong interest in it.

(Presidential Words Continued from page 1)

of Jim's microwave presentation later in the year. In the meantime if there are any ideas you have for after meeting presentations please let me or Steve Lane know.

As **WASH** always does, we start a busy year with our annual 2 meter simplex contest in January and the **WASHfest** in late February. Your help in promoting and participating in both events will insure success. If you

check into any nets other than our usual Sunday evening net, please don't forget to mention the 2-meter simplex contest and the **WASHfest**. Details for each event can be found on our website.

Well folks, I look forward to working with you this year as your President. I have a tough act to follow but with your help 2005 can be every bit the success that 2004 was.

Happy New Year!

73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

WASHNet

1st Half 2005 NCS Schedule

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01/02 — Michael KB3HFP | 04/10 — Carol KB3GMN or Rich N3SBF |
| 01/09 — Frank KB3FZU | |
| 01/16 — Paul NØVLR | 04/17 — Steve W3SRL |
| 01/23 — Hank KB3FNM | 04/24 — Hank KB3FNM |
| 01/30 — Carol KB3GMN or Rich N3SBF | 05/01 — Kevin N3HKQ |
| 02/06 — Steve W3SRL | 05/08 — Harold KB3CPI |
| 02/13 — Kevin N3HKQ | 05/15 — Bill W3VWH |
| 02/20 — Harold KB3CPI | 05/22 — Bell Family |
| 02/27 — Bell Family | 05/29 — Michael KB3HFP |
| 03/06 — Bill W3VWH | 06/05 — Frank KB3FZU |
| 03/13 — Michael KB3HFP | 06/12 — Paul NØVLR |
| 03/20 — Frank KB3FZU | 06/19 — Hank KB3FNM |
| 03/27 — Kevin N3HKQ | 06/26 — Carol KB3GMN or Rich N3SBF |
| 04/03 — Paul NØVLR | Alternate — Ron WN3VAW |

“twas the week before Christmas, and all 'round the mall, there were parked many cars, only one with a call...” in other words, there wasn't a large turnout for the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops in Whitehall, one week early on December 18th. In attendance were W3SRL, KB3CPI, and WN3VAW (figures, first time in months he didn't have a work conflict...). Topics of the morning included promotions, jobs in Vail, Jeeps, mobiles, new cars, retirement, medical problems, fire rescue, winter tires, and a few things radio related too!

The next Club Breakfast will be at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, on January 29th, and we return to the **Your Way Café** in the Caste Village Shops, Grove & Baptist Roads, Whitehall, February 26th, the day before **WASHFest 2005**. See you there!

Chinese Auction winners: The following prizes were one during the Chinese Auction at the club's Christmas/Holiday party. Our thanks again to Carol KB3GMN and Jacqué N3ZEL for all their hard work in setting up the party and procuring the prizes!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pa QSO County Map | Herman |
| Measuring Tapes: | Bill, Patti, Bill, Ritchie, Ed |
| Home Toolkit: | Steve |
| WorldRadio Subscription: | Paul |
| Coffee/Tea Basket: | Georgette |
| Tool Set: | Pete, Steve |
| Scarf: | Mary Lou |
| Afghan: | Kevin |
| AES Gift Certificate: | Jan |
| Giant Eagle Gift Certificate: | Paul |
| ICOM IC-2100 | Bill |

(What can I say? That's the way I got the list! — Editor)

WACOM Changes: As many of you may have already heard, some big changes have occurred for our friends in WA3COM Washington Amateur Communications for 2005. The biggest is that they are no longer meeting at the South Strabane #1 (a/k/a Pancake) Firehall. Effective in January 2005, they are now meeting in the County Building in Downtown Washington. Parking is free in the garage; use the first garage entrance if you are coming down the hill from Main Street, or the last garage entrance if you are going up the hill towards Main Street. The meeting room will be posted on a board by the elevator.

As a consequence of the move, the WA3COM station has been dismantled, and WACOM's cabinets, radios, and supplies have been moved for now to various locations where space has been donated by officers and members (ye editor hopes his old steel desk didn't get left behind!). WACOM members who are looking for a particular piece of equipment should contact WACOM Secretary Susan KB3JHQ for the location of that item.

Also, WACOM's mailing address is now c/o Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI, 60 Carl Avenue B2, Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829.

Speaking of moves, the Washington County Sports Show, held the first full weekend in February, has moved from the Washington Mall to the Washington Crown Center (previously known as the Franklin Mall). WACOM will again be running the W3C Special Event Station from the show from February 3rd — 6th. Any and all are welcome to come out and help operate W3C from the show this year!

Traffic Handling: A seminar on Traffic Handling has been scheduled by Bob KB3IN. It will be held at the Emergency Center in the Washington County Building starting at 10 AM. Anyone who would like to know more about handling traffic or learn proper procedures for doing so in an emergency situation are encouraged to attend.

ARRL VEC Test Session Fees increase to \$14.00 as of January 1st. This fee is set by the ARRL to cover costs of supplies and processing.

Dues? Yes, it's the first of the year, and that means it's time for annual dues to be, er, due. Dues, along with proceeds from **WASHFest**, the monthly 50/50 raffles, and other small fund raisers during the year, fund Field Day and our picnics, purchase our equipment, and pay for other whatnot. So don't put off renewing your membership — do it today!

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

Minutes, November 11th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/ Secretary, **WASH**

Editor's Note: There was no formal meeting in December. These are minutes from the last business meeting. Due to an oversight, the October minutes were repeated in the last newsletter.

Bill, W3WH, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours. There were 27 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the October meeting as published in the October newsletter. The motion was made by Dick, N3QMV, seconded by Carol, KB3GMN. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): No Report

Secretary (KB3FZU): No Report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The October VE session was a success. The next VE session will be in January; VEs are needed.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): Repeaters are repeating.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Schedule is posted through January.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): No Report.

Public Service (N3RDV): No Report.

Contests (K3VX): Suggestions are requested for ways to make the two meter contest more popular. This years contest is Saturday, January 8th. Larry gave the report on the PA QSO party from the Green County site. Paul, NØVLR, presented clean sweep awards to the WA3SH Fayette County crew.

JOTA report: 14 scouts successfully completed their merit badge. Rick presented Bill with a certificate of appreciation for our club from the Boy Scouts of America. Additional certificates were presented to Steve, W3SRL, Larry, K3VX, Bill, W3WH, Paul, NØVLR and Kevin, N3HKQ.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): The newsletter went out this morning.

President's Report (W3WH): No Report.

Old Business: No Report.

New Business: Hamfest is scheduled for February 27th.

Elections: Nominations for President were opened. Larry, K3VX and Kevin, N3HKQ, were nominated. Larry declined the nomination. Bill, W3WH, moved to close nominations for President, and Ed, N3ZNI, seconded. Bill then asked that the Secretary make one vote for Kevin, N3HKQ, for President. The motion was voted on and passed.

Nominations were then opened for Vice-President / Secretary. Paul, KB3KOT and Dan, KB3HVN, declined the nominations. Dave, N3IDH nominated Steve, W3SRL for the open position. Bill, W3WH, moved to close nominations for president, and Ed, N3ZNI, seconded. Bill then asked that the Secretary make one vote for Steve, W3SRL, for Vice-President / Secretary. The motion was voted on and passed.

Good of the Order: No Report.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Carol, KB3GMN, and seconded by Ron, WN3VAW. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 19:39. Steve, W3SRL, gave a presentation on beacons.

WASH Spotlight: KB3FNM



Hmmm. We could point out that Hank's wife, Mary Lou, won this scarf at the Christmas / Holiday Party's Chinese Auction. But somehow, words fail us... this picture just plain speaks for itself!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 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@njdx.org

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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

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

Join us in in January at **The Starting Line Café** on Route 19 near Race Track Road, north of Washington, and in February at the **Your Way Café**, Caste Village Shops, Baptist & Grove Roads, Whitehall. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!



Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3GMO	KE7FD	N3RNX	W3HND	Barbara Mistic
AA3JS	KB3GMP	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3JAF	David Delmonico
AB3AB	KB3GMU	KQ3DX	N3TBK	W3RJM	
K3BZW	KB3GZG	NØPEU	N3UE	W3RWS	Silent Keys
K3JDS	KB3GUZ	NØVLR	N3UIW	W3SRL	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3HFP	NØWPV	N3VEH	W3VE	KB3ENX
K3OL	KB3HVN	N2QIV	N3WPPT	W3VFA	KB3FQT
K3PCF	KB3IAC	N3AWF	N3XFE	W3WH	N3KEH
K3VX	KB3ICC	N3BSQ	N3XI	W4ZE	N3OBD
K3WR	KB3IJC	N3CZZ	N3YPB	W8LEV	N3SKR
K9LZ	KB3IRQ	N3DFK	N3YQY	WA3JPP	N3SRC
KA3PPH	KB3IVW	N3FZ	N3ZCG	WA3RVD	W3ZLK
KA3TFB	KB3IVX	N3HKQ	N3ZEG	WB3BPH	
KA3UPY	KB3KOT	N3IDH	N3ZEH	WB4GCS	Color Codes:
KA3WZO	KB3QX	N3INT	N3ZEL	WB3GTL	2004 Member
KA3YTS	KC2JJB	N3KFD	N3ZNI	WN3BOJ	2003 Member
KB3ANH	KC4WTT	N3PN	N4MIS	WN3VAW	2002 Member
KB3CPI	KC6VLV	N3QMV	NP2JF	WO3Z	2001 Member
KB3DCO	KD3JV	N3RDV	N8DPW		(2000 and earlier
KB3EPI	KE3XB	N3RHT	W3GEL		members no longer
KB3ERQ					displayed)
KB3FNM					
KB3FZU					
KB3GMN					

Dayton Hamvention® 2005 University of Dayton Room Reservations

Greg KQ3DX has again reserved five suites again at the University of Dayton for Dayton Hamvention 2005. Those of you who have been with us know how nice they are!

Greg needs to know by the end of January who is interested in being in the rooms this year, so if you haven't already contacted him, now is the time. Once the rooms are filled, or an unneeded reservation is cancelled, it's too late.

Be aware also that the cost has gone up slightly, about \$4 per room per day (which works out to be \$1 per person per day). It's still the best Dayton room bargain that you'll find, short of crashing on a relative's couch! Interested? Contact Greg at kq3dx@hotmail.com.

Through December 29th, 2004

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Mobile Communications Pod

Gary L. Van Balen KB3GUZ

I recently designed and built a "communications pod" for my mobile installation. The pod supports up to four antennas and allows me to tilt the antennas in pairs from horizontal to vertical in about 10 seconds using two electric screwdriver motors (one for the front and one for the back pair of antennas). This is necessary so I can park the car in a garage. I'm using a Diamond Supergainer 7900 for 2 meters & 70 centimeters, a 9 foot fiberglass whip with SG-237 Auto Tuner for HF, and a 4 foot fiberglass antenna for CB. A currently unused mount will be used for experimental antennas and/or a wide-band receive (scanner) antenna.

You can't see them well in the photo, but there is a telescoping diagonal brace on the fiberglass CB antenna that supports the front two antennas and a retractable guy (made from a retractable leash) attached to the HF whip that supports the back two antennas while moving. These relieve the stress on the tilting mechanism while driving at highway speeds.

The tuner for HF is in the antenna pod near the base of the whip. A short feed line between the tuner and the base of the whip plugs into a double banana jack on the side of the pod. One side of the jack is the RF signal while the other side is an RF ground point. A counterpoise can be plugged into the ground side if needed. I'm experimenting to see if a good RF ground improves the performance of the 9 foot whip while stationary. I can also plug ladder line into the double banana jack and feed a portable dipole or some other antenna when operating "stationary mobile." I'm planning to build a freestanding dipole out of two 8 foot fiberglass whips and a telescoping pole of some sort. I'll feed it with ladder line plugged into the side of the antenna pod. This may make a good field day antenna for stationary mobile operations.

The pod is designed so it can be removed from the roof of the car in less than 5 minutes. It takes 5 to 10 minutes to get it back on. The hinged cover of the pod is lockable, and there are four lockable (keyed alike) knobs that hold the pod to the luggage racks. An additional lockable knob (keyed the same as the others) locks the SG-237 tuner to the pod.

With the antennas presently installed, the pod weighs 25 lbs. The pod can be moved to the roof of another vehicle using straps, suction cups, etc. when necessary. However, when mounted on my car, the tip of the vertical HF whip is 14'-6" above the road. Consequently, if the pod were to be mounted on a higher vehicle, I would use a shorter HF whip, or only raise it when stationary.

There are four coaxial cables and three control cables between the pod and the inside of the car. The coaxial cables connect to the pod using BNC connectors. Four conductor microphone connectors are used for the tuner control cable, and RJ-45 connectors for the motor control cables (one cable for the front pair of antennas and one cable for the back pair of antennas). There are two momentary-contact DPDT toggle switches and indicator LEDs in the car for tilting the antennas. There are limit switches in the pod to stop the antennas in the horizontal and vertical positions without going past the stops. The antennas can also be



January Hamfest Preview

Don Merz N3RHT

TUSCO ARC Hamfest, January 23rd, 2005

I have been going to this hamfest for about 10 years. It has changed venues quite a bit and has a new location this year. The hamfest used to be at the National Guard Armory in Dover, Ohio. Then it moved to an empty store in a Dover shopping mall (which was a great hamfest facility).

This year it is in an auction barn at 965 North Wooster Avenue in Strasburg, Ohio. You can go to the TUSCO ARC web page at <http://www.noard.com/tuscoarc.htm> for directions. This location is about a 2 hour drive from Pittsburgh out route 22 and Ohio route 250. Part of this drive runs through the Tappan Lakes region which is quite scenic, even in the winter.

The TUSCO ARC hamfest generally draws about 30 vendors and maybe 800 to 1100 attendees. It does vary from year to year and bad weather can be a factor. But it's a good area to attract hams from with Dover, Canton, and Massillon all close by. I usually see a good mix of radio stuff and computer gear there. But old gear and parts of the kind I am mostly interested in is lightly represented at best. People are friendly and the hamfest is well-run. The food has been a cut above most hamfests, with a reasonably good home cooking style menu. donuts, and so forth.

I like hamfests so I would tell you that this one is worth the trip. But it is small so don't set your expectations too high. Tables are a reasonable \$11 and can be had by contacting Gary Green K8WFN at k8wfn@tusco.net.

Other hamfests on the calendar: **WASHfest** February 29th, Two Rivers ARC March 13th.

CQ invites Amateur Radio operators around the world to join in celebrating its 60th anniversary by taking part in an on-air event during the first 60 days of 2005.

CQ's first issue was published in January, 1945.

During the "CQ Gang" activity — January 1 until March 1, 2005 — all hams ever associated with CQ as staff members, contributing editors or authors— as well as current subscribers to CQ, CQ VHF and Popular Communications may sign "/60" after their call signs. Certificates will be issued for contacts with enough /60 stations to garner a minimum of 60 contact points, based on number of contacts times the number of different position multipliers (eg, editor, columnist etc) worked. CQ club station WW2CQ will be active from various parts of the US during the event.

Complete rules for the CQ Gang 60th Anniversary activity appear in the December 2004 issue of CQ and on the CQ Web Site <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>

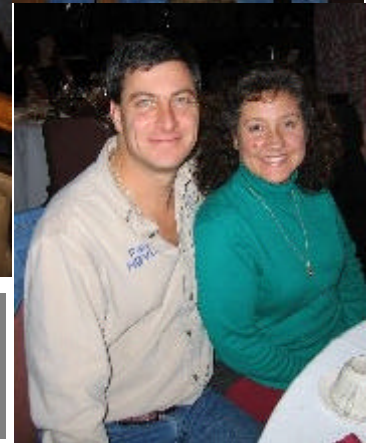
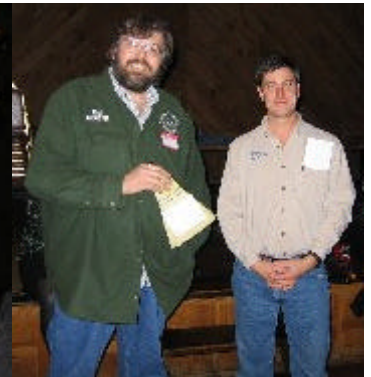
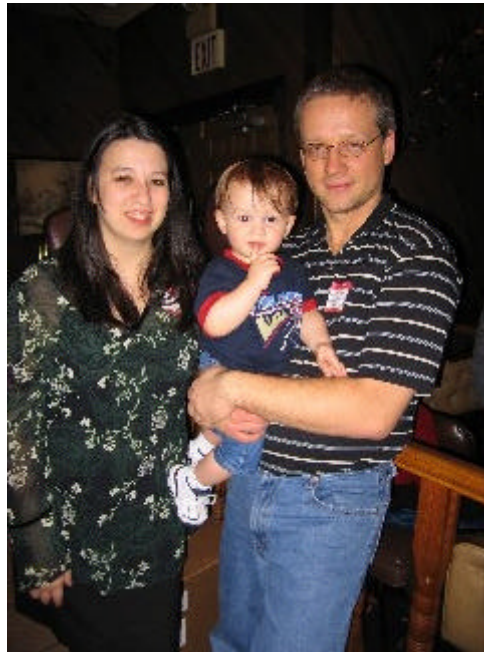
stopped anywhere between horizontal and vertical and the direction can be reversed at will.

The SG-237 does not falter while matching the 9 foot whip on 50 MHz through 80 Meters, but the whip doesn't tune up on 160-Meters.

In the limited time the communications pod has been in use, I've received 58 and 59 signal reports while operating phone from Hams in PA, MI, NY, TX, OH, CA, NJ, FL, Canada, and the Virgin Islands. I recently completed a trip to Vermont and back (1600-mile roundtrip) and had a blast operation HF mobile, having several QSOs that lasted 30 minutes or more each. I use an ICOM 706 MKIIG radio in his mobile installation.

Have *Yourselves* A Merry Little Christmas... Party

Another great **WASH** Christmas / Holiday party was held this year at Al's Caf é in Bethel Park. As you can see from the pictures, between the fantastic food and the great company, a good time was again had by all — if you missed it, you missed another good one (so try and make it next year, we want you to enjoy the great times with us!) We're not going to try and cram a lot of "cute" captions in here this time 'round, just wanted to again thank all who came and celebrated the season!



All photos on this page courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Kevin F. DeRose N3KFD



5th Annual WASH 2M Contest!

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

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

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

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 8th, 2005 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 9th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

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

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

FM: FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.405 to 147.585 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, and simplex frequencies below that are **not** to be used.

Special Note On Band Plans: According to the WPRC Frequency Coordinator, the Western PA Repeater Council has issued their own 2 Meter band plan that differs from the ARRL plan. According to the WPRC plan, many FM Simplex channels under the ARRL plan have been "withdrawn" and been reserved or re-assigned as repeater inputs and/or outputs. It is not known how many of the frequencies have actually been coordinated for actual working repeaters. Considering that the ARRL band plan has been in existence for over 25 years, that the WPRC band plan is of much more recent vintage, and that the WPRC band plan is virtually unknown outside of the WPRC, we are using the ARRL plan as our "standard." However, contest participants are reminded that under good amateur practice, they should try and avoid interference with actual operating repeaters using these frequencies. Therefore, contest participants are requested to refrain from using "standard" simplex frequencies that are known to be repeater inputs and/or outputs in their geographical area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How AC Line Noise is Created

John Cummings NØHKQ courtesy of the Ten Tec reflector

Electrical noise is a natural phenomenon. Along with the fundamental 120V 60Hz power, reactive currents are on the service mains neutral and ground.

Reactive currents represent "unused" energy that has been discharged onto the power lines from the impedance load as the source voltage modulates. Each piece of connected equipment in your home or office adds to the total reactive current on the neutral wire, which in turn is connected to the electrical system's ground. The level of these reactive neutral/grounding currents can be considerable. In many cases in the past, there have been high enough levels of reactive currents present in the power to crash data processing systems. Historical evidence attesting to this fact is overwhelming.

Data processing facilities have long had problems with AC power. It's no wonder that the audio industry is finding out that digital sound reproduction is no piece of cake. In other related areas such as digital broadcasting, malfunctions from poor power often prove to be the "Achilles Heel" of the system, particularly where extremely high bit rates and wide bandwidths are used. Compressed noise can cause real problems.

Electronic power supplies have long been known to create these reactive currents. In the electrical power industry, an entire segment of that field has grown up around the study of "power quality." Power quality (PQ) has much to do with the purity of AC power as it affects the operation of sensitive electronics.

Aside from reactive currents, there are other PQ issues involved that can affect equipment performance. Among them is Power Factor. Whenever the true power used by a load equals something less than the apparent power being supplied, reactive currents make up the difference.

This ratio between true power and apparent power is called "Power Factor." Ideally the ratio would be 1:1. However, the presence of reactive current means that some portion of the power that is present has shifted phase. This is due to the effect of reactive current from a typical non-linear (impedance) load. Some of the voltage is lagging 90 degrees from the fundamental voltage phase. This shift in voltage away from the active current phase means that to that extent, simply, there is no power present. Voltage and current must be in phase for power to exist -- for electricity to actively create an effect. Low power factor means that the efficiency of equipment power supplies will be affected.

Often studio owners will comment that their equipment sounds better at night, a symptom of heavy commercial use on the power system during daylight hours and an indication of poor power factor.

(AC Line Noise Continued on page 8)

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

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

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the WASH web site, www.washarc.org, after January 1st.

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

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

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.
 Entry Deadline: February 8th, 2005

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHfest 2005 on February 27th!

The Phantom Operator

Frank Faber KB7LYM courtesy of www.eham.net

In 1975 a strange signal was received by Ham radio Operators all over the world. It was sent via CW but no one could make any sense out of it. It was perhaps a foreign language. The signal continued to show up and baffled many Ham Operators. The strange thing was that the signal was always precisely at 1510.

The Operator, by now was called The Phantom. And only on Thursdays did the Phantom strike. The location in question was about 75 miles East of Sumas, Washington. It was hard to get a bearing because the Phantom was on the air only about 15-30 seconds.

Years passed by and the Phantom did his job. Yes, folks, 1510 on Thursday. Then in 2003 and the Phantom still going strong, Boy Scouts found a lone Cabin in the Cascade wilderness. To their amazement they found inside the Cabin the left over remains of a deceased Radio Operator. There was not much left of the poor soul. Rodents and other wild animals had carried most of it away.

The Scouts also discovered an array of wires strong out all over the place. They found about 50 Deep cycle Marine Batteries, Solar panels, Wind Energizers etc. All used to charge the batteries that were alive and still doing their job, even after 28 years.

The Old Ham who ran the place was wise enough to use sealed batteries. The Scouts discovered in the Cabin the remains of a right skeleton hand that was resting on an old Telegraph key. The radio covered with years of dust and moss covered was still running. Suddenly without warning the hand started to vibrate. It was Thursday 1510 hours!

Strange rhythmic sounds came from the old Key. After 20 seconds it stopped. Upon investigation they found out that on the other side of the mountain a Rock quarry Company blasting the mountainside precisely at 1510 on Thursday. The shockwaves was what the hand made vibrate!

We then knew that we had found the Phantom. The only other items to identify the poor dedicated Ham was a call sign hardly readable due to moisture damage and mice that had chewed on the wooden sign that was nailed to the wall of the Cabin. We could see the first letter, a "W". The second was harder, could be a 1 or a 7, but the rest was gone.

Who knows who he was and why he was there is anybodies guess. We sent the hand, the key, and what was left of the call sign to the Smithsonian Institute, but due to the high cost in operating our Government the display promised is still on hold.

All this good news from my desk to yours and it shows that one can still be on the air after becoming a SK!

**Remember to work the WASH 2 Meter Contest,
Saturday, January 8th, 7 PM to 11 PM EST!**

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.

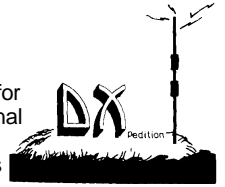
For more information, contact Dan & OGS Distributing at 412-655-8787

(AC Line Noise Continued from page 7)

sl got tired of listening to the wife's hair dryer, tired of listening to the garbage disposal and what other stuff she was turning on upstairs through my rigs
Soooo!

What I use to help with these stray reactive currents is an 120VAC Line Filter Model 473 / 40amp as sold by Array Solutions, cant remember how much it cost. All of my ham (Orion, TS-950DX and IC-756 Pro II) equipment, 50 Amp power supply and 8 pieces of sound reinforcement equipment is running through this AC filter from a dedicated 115 VAC, 20 Amp circuit. The AL-80B is on a dedicated 220 VAC circuit (shared with the clothes dryer, but never run at the same time).

DX News Briefs



The Peter I Island 3YØX DXpedition team is gearing up for next months much anticipated activation. The international team plans to board a former Chilean Navy icebreaker on January 14, 2005 and set sail for Peter I Island. This will be only the third ever DXpedition to Peter I Island, which is located at 68 50' South 90 35' West in the Bellinghausen Sea.

Once the team arrives off shore, around January 19th, they will fly via helicopter all of the equipment and team members to the icy island. When the team lands they will have to immediately set up multiple arctic-grade insulated shelters, which will be home for approximately the next 16 days (January 20-February 4 estimated). Activity will be on 10-160 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They are aware of the US General band and will listen there during appropriate times.

"This DXpedition is sure to be the most expensive ever DXpedition. Please seriously consider supporting this activity by visiting <http://www.peterone.com>." QSL via K4YL — N2WB via KF2TI

DX Columbia is looking for operators interested in participating in a DXpedition to **Malpelo HKØ** in 2005-6. They are planning on a total of 20 operators, 13 from Columbia, 7 international. They plan on operating 160—6 meters, all modes, possibly some EME also. Possible dates for the DXpedition fall in the range of June 2005 through March 2006. They are also seeking sponsors. Potential operators should be aware of the physical demands involved in climbing the island in order to operate! More information available at www.dx-columbia.com, and will also be available at Dayton 2005. —HK1XX

F4EGX & F5BU will take part in a job related mission on **Crozet Archipelago FT5W** at the beginning of 2005. They are hoping to do some ham activity during their spare time. They are scheduled to arrive on Possession Island (AF-008 and DIFO FT-009) around February 5th. They will be on the island until the end of March. QSL via F5BU —F4EGX, F5BU via OPDX

W9VA will be QRV from **Fernando de Noronha** February 16th — 22nd. He will be on the WARC bands and 6 meters as **PYØZFØ**, and as **PYØFF** during the ARRL DX CW Contest February 19th & 20th. QSL all via W9VA — W9VA

UA3VCS became a Silent Key in July 2004. According to RW3VZ, all the logs for **BW3/UA3VCS & BW4/UA3VCS** are now lost — RA3SL

Some QSL sources are incorrectly reporting that NWØL is the manager for **PJ2T**. The only correct route for PJ2T was & is via N9AG — NWØL

YA5Y will be QRV during the CQ WW 160 meter CW contest January 29th & 30th. He will be a Single Op Low Power entry, running 100 Watts to a dipole at 15 meters high. QSL via DL5SE through the DARC bureau — OPDX

SF5ØA is a special 50th anniversary call in 2005 for SM7CRW — SM7CRW

QSL Routes

4J85YGA via UT3UY — JQ2GYU
5K5Z via K7ZD — K7ZD
5NØNHD via JK1UWY — DJ6YX
8Q7HX via DJ8HX — RA3SL
A61AR via UA6MF — UA6JD
AH2R via JH7QXJ — VA7EWK
AY1ZA via LU4DXU — W9OL
C6DX via W8QJD — NKØS
C6AKQ via N4BP — W9OL
CT8T via CT1DVV — W9OL
CX1JJ via EA5KB — RA3SL
D88S via DS4CNB — KU4BP
EM1HO via I2PJA — NKØS
ET3TK via OK1CU — KC5YKX
FR1AN via N5FTR — KF3AA
G11W via GIØNWG — M5AAV
H44MX via KQ1F — RA3SL
HK1XX via EA7FTR — VA7EWK
J73CCM via SMØCCM — W9OL
J75J via KR4DA — W2IRT
JY4NE via K3IRV — RA3SL

LR2F via LU2FA — VA7EWK
LTØH via EA7FTR — VA7EWK
OJØJ via OHØRJ — JQ2GYU
OY4TN via ON5UR — W2IRT
P29XF via G3TXF — W9IXX
RW2F via DK4VW — NKØS
S9BB via OH2TA — JQ2GYU
ST2T via S57DX — W2IRT
T3ØM via YT1AD — XE1ZW
T3ØT via K7ZZ — K7ZD
T42D via K8SIX — K8SIX
TR8DF via F5SWB — G3SWH
TU2WL via IN3ASW — KC5YKX
V6A via JA7AO — W2IRT
VK9AA via DL8YR — VE3EXY
VK9NW via K9NW — VE3EXY
VK9XG via WØYG — VE3EXY
VQ5C via NU4Y — VA7EWK
XF4IH via XE1IH — JJ1BDX
XU7GAX via JA7GAX — JJ1BDX
YVØD via KB6NAN — KU4BP

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.



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

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks **NOPEU** for providing the site!



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

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

FYI Networks now also provides sDSL service in selected areas. **WASH** Members can get DSL for the discounted rate of only \$47.50/ month. A pre-qualification must be done to see if your address is in the DSL coverage area. Call John Vasicek at 412-488-7800 for more information about FYI sDSL services & benefits.

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

FCC News

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

Newington, CT, December 17th, 2004 — Officials of Internet service provider EarthLink told the FCC that broadband over power line (BPL) cannot compete with the dominant cable or DSL technology today or in the near future. A BPL industry spokesperson subsequently criticized the ARRL apparently for reporting the company's statements. EarthLink President and CEO Garry Betty and other company officials met November 16 with FCC Chairman Michael Powell and Commission attorney Aaron Goldberger to deliver an *ex parte* presentation on several Wireline Competition Bureau and Common Carrier Bureau proceedings.



"EarthLink discussed that it has invested in and is in trials with several potential 'third wire' broadband transmission paths to the home, including WiFi, WiMax, MMDS and broadband over power lines," EarthLink Counsel Mark J. O'Connor informed FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch in a November 17 letter. "However, EarthLink pointed out that cable and DSL still account for virtually all consumer broadband connections and that none of these alternative technologies offer a commercially viable alternative today or in the near future."

An EarthLink analysis indicated that BPL is the most expensive of the broadband technologies it evaluated. In a chart titled "Next generation broadband," EarthLink said that wireless and BPL "are not likely to be competitive in cost and performance with cable and DSL over the last mile to the home." The company judged as "not successful" one unspecified BPL technical trial using Amperion equipment in a "wireless/BPL combo."

In discussing other trials using Ambient and Current Technologies equipment--one of which EarthLink had invested in--the ISP's assessment was that the high cost per household passed--\$125 in both instances --would require a better than 15 percent market penetration to attain a competitive cost.

EarthLink said its assessment determined that ADSL2+ technology is the "best option" and can offer VoIP as well as high-speed broadband (at 6 to 10 Mbps) and video over copper wire and using on-premise consumer equipment. The company also indicated that it plans to invest in ADSL2+ technology.

ARRL's reporting of EarthLink's November submission to the FCC apparently struck a nerve at Ambient, with which EarthLink has a business relationship. In a classic case of shooting the messenger, Ambient CEO John J. Joyce took the League to task on the CBS MarketWatch.com Web site on behalf of the BPL industry. Calling ARRL "the leading opponent of BPL in the US" and his own corporation as "a leader on Power Line Communications (PLC)," Joyce seemed to suggest that the League itself had provided the EarthLink information and was spinning the company's remarks to advantage.

"The release by the ARRL clearly takes the statements of EarthLink's attorney out of context and conveniently ignores many developments in the industry that contradict ARRL's conclusions," Joyce said.

Among other things, Joyce said that "the ARRL perception of BPL's economics fails to consider that consumer broadband is only one application for a BPL-enabled utility system." he said there are other industrial applications that may augur in BPL's economic favor. He also emphasized that the projects with which his company and EarthLink have collaborated were demonstrations "never intended to be competitive installations" and are "in no way representative of BPL economics." He said Ambient "continues to refine its system and equipment design for cost efficiencies."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League stands by its account, which Joyce characterized as a "claim" on the ARRL's part. Sumner also chided CBS MarketWatch.com for reporting Joyce's comments on Ambient's behalf but not referring readers to EarthLink's publicly available submission to the FCC, to which the League account includes a link.

"ARRL's report on the document was accurate in every way, and we stand by our report," Sumner said. "The conclusions given are not ours, but EarthLink's. Anyone who wishes to do so can read the submission for themselves."

Congratulations!! to the following officers of Washington Amateur Communications (WACOM), re-elected to new terms in office for 2005:

Vice President:	Joe Caldwell N3XE
Treasurer:	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
Board of Directors:	John Moninger WA3VKC

Now in our TENTH big year!



WASHfest 2005

The South Hills Hamfest

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

Sunday, February 27th, 2005

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

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

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

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



(800) 545-8881

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

MAIN PRIZE DRAWING at 2 PM—You've Got to play to WIN!

(prizes to be announced)

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

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

For reservations, or information, Contact:

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

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

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

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



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2005



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

(check quarter _____ →)
(check one ↓)

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

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

License Class: _____

City, State: _____

Expires On: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

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

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

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

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

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Order Form for "The TLC Embroidery Company"

Embroidered Shirts and Hats

Quantity	Item/Description	Size	Color	Unit Cost	Net Cost
				Sub-Total	
				6 % Sales Tax	
				Total Enclosed	

<u>Available</u>	<u>Cost (S M L XL)</u>	<u>Cost (2X 3X 4X)</u>
Golf Shirts	\$20.00	\$22.00
Rugby Shirts	\$20.00	\$20.00
Light Jackets	tba	tba
Lined Jackets	tba	tba
Hats	\$10.00	\$10.00

Club logo is not currently available on the hats due to size limitations. Contact TLC Embroidery for more information.

Prices, availability & available colors subject to change without notice.

Use additional sheet(s) if necessary

Make checks payable to Sharon Cox
Mail to: The TLC Embroidery Company
366 Dry Ridge Road
West Alexander, PA 15376

Phone: 724 - 484 - 7703

Inside This Issue:

- Pictures from the annual Christmas/Holiday Party at Al's Café!
- Earthlink tells the FCC that BPL isn't viable — and the ARRL gets blamed?
- Ever hear of the Phantom Operator?
- KB3GUZ's Mobile Communications Pod!
- N3RHT's Hamfest Review!

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



And The Winner Is...

Bill Hill W3WH was the lucky winner of the ICOM IC-2100 that was auctioned off at the Christmas/Holiday party. Lots of club members walked away with other items from the Chinese Auction, the food was fantastic as always, and a great time was had by all! Thanks again Carol KB3GMN for a superb party!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2004 Kevin Smith N3HKQ
More Christmas/Holiday Party Photos inside!

Upcoming WASH Club Events:

- ♦ Fifth Annual WASH 2 Meter Contest, January 8th

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