



N3SH Selected as the 2006 PA QSO Party Bonus Station

“I am awaiting another email from another applicant before I make the announcement.

For the record, WASH is this years SES.”

— Mike Coslo KB3EIA, Chair, Pa QSO Party

With these words from an April 20th e-mail to me, we were officially (if not yet publicly) notified that the [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS](http://www.washarc.org) has been selected to host this year's Pa QSO Party Special Event / Bonus Station, under (of course) the N3SH call.

This is a real honor to the club, and a real feather in our cap. Now comes the tough part: living up to it.

Fortunately, the club's activities in the last few years have gotten us well prepared to host the SES. We've run multiple stations in the contest for years, under all three of our club calls, plus many individual or small group efforts from club members. We've operated portables and mobiles. And collectively, we've won our fair share of certificates and accolades.

Our immediate priorities are, of course, Dayton Hamvention, Breezeshooter's Hamfest (and club picnic), the June VHF Contest for some, and Field Day. But that doesn't mean we can't start planning now. October may "only" be 5 months away, but that time will melt like butter if we don't use it wisely.

Nothing is set in stone yet, but here are some of the early ideas that have been tossed around on the air, at the club breakfast, and in private bull sessions:

- Run three primary stations: N3SH/Phone from one county, N3SH/CW from another, N3SH/Digital from a third.
- Run three primary stations, two from our "home" counties of Allegheny and Washington, and the third from the scout camp in Fayette (WA3SH the last few years), with each station running all modes.
- Run three primary stations as above, and several secondary stations from other surrounding WPA counties.
- Run three primaries, multiple secondary ones, and toss in a mobile or two to cover additional counties.
- And while you're at it, see if some of our out-of-state members want to activate their ARRL sections for the contest as N3SH/R too!

Any or all of these combinations are doable, IF we have three things:

- Enough Operators
- Enough Equipment
- Enough Locations

(N3SH to be Bonus Station Continued on page 5)

Presidential Words

We are waiting for official announcement from the organizers of the PA QSO Party, but we have been assured privately that N3SH will be the 2006 Bonus Station. I received several suggestions to appoint someone to organize the effort for the club. That sounded like a good idea and so I asked Ron Notarius and he accepted. While there are many details to ponder it looks like we will have a digital station (all but PSK31 and CW) in Washington County, a CW station in Allegheny County, a SSB/FM station in Fayette County, and a rover/mobile station. If Ron can arrange it, there may even be an N3SH station from a DX station in a distant ARRL section. Time will tell but this is a great opportunity to show off our club's skill and to have one heck of a good time. I for one can't wait to experience being on the receiving end of a pile-up. Managing a pile-up is an important skill to learn but I am not sure how to train for it. Ideas Ron? Before I am accused of putting the horse before the cart however, we have Field Day to prepare for. This year we return to the Library Sportsman's Club thanks to Ed Oelslager for inquiring and Hank Marzina for sponsoring us. Larry Comden and Bill Hill are organizing our usual 3A operation. Again this year Carol and Rich Danko will do Field Day from their cabin in Forest County and if I understand correctly, Paul Lusardi and Randy George are planning to spend Field Day at Raccoon Creek State Park in



(Presidential Words Continued on page 3)

Inside this

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Is It Time?	6
The Bands Are Going To...	7
DX News Briefs	8
FCC News	9
Hamfest Announcements	10

Next Meeting: May 11th, 2006

The next monthly meeting of the [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.](http://www.washarc.org) will be Thursday, May 11th, at the [Peters Township Library](http://www.peters-township.org), 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Hamvention, Field Day, Pa QSO Party planning, the tower trailer, and the Breezeshooter's Hamfest club picnic will be discussed, along with other topics.

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

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

NCS Schedule
Listed On Page 3

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

**LOOKING
AHEAD:**

- Breezeshooter's Hamfest June 4
- ARRL June VHF June 10th & 11th
- ARRL Field Day June 24th & 25th
- North Hills ARC Hamfest July 9th
- Somerset Co ARC Hamfest July 16th
- Butler Co ARC Hamfest September 10th
- Ca QSO Party October 7 & 8th
- Pa QSO Party October 14 & 15
- ARRL CW Sweepstakes November 4 & 5
- WACOM Hamfest November 5th

May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	2 Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	3 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	4 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> Elco ARS Meeting	6 RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net
7 Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	8 <i>Bum of the Month Lunch</i> ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	9 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtg Fort Venango M&KC Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net	10 North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtg Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	11 WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	12	13 Butler Co ARA VE Test NHARC/Breezeshooters VE 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net
14 QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	15 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	16 Steel City ARC Mtng S H B P & M Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Junata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting WACOM Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	17 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	18 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net	19 Quad Co ARC Meeting	20 Foothills ARC VE Test NHARC Elmer Net
21 Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	22 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	23 Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	24 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	25 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	26	27 WASH Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net
Dayton						
28 QCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	29 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	30 WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	31 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net			

WASH 2006 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 / NP2SH QSL Manager Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster Bob Sanford AA3FI
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2007 Committee Steve Lane W3SRL, Chairman
Carol Danko KB3GMN
Bill Hill W3WH
Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Activities & Operating Events Larry Comden K3VX
Ted Huf W4ZE
Ways & Means Carol Danko KB3GMN
Mobile Tower Project Paul Lusardi NØVLR
Randy George KB3KGP
Pa QSO Party SES Coordinator Ron Notarius WN3VAW

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)

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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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 July 20th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, July 20th, 2006, 6:30 PM, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

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

Please bring the following to your test session:

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

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

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

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

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

Future test dates: Thursday, October 19th, 2006
 (tentative) Thursday, January 18th, 2007
 Thursday, April 19th, 2007
 Thursday, July 19th, 2007

(Presidential Words Continued from page 1)

Beaver County. Jim and Patty Sanford will be otherwise occupied that same weekend celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary with a renewal of wedding vows and a reception at their home. Congratulations to Patty and Jim. That may put a crimp on our satellite and VHF effort but we will muddle through. What a busy weekend that will be!

Finally I talked to Rick Bell about n3sh.org. Needless to say he is very sorry for how it is turning out. To put it succinctly, his work has taken over his life to the exclusion of almost anything else. He has the basic website programmed but he needs 4 solid hours to upload and debug it. He has it debugged on his computer but from past experience he knows bugs will appear in the process of transferring to the host server. Once it is located on the home server, he needs help to add content and maintain it. I know there are members who expressed willingness to help with this part so when the site is ready; I hope you will step up.

We have a busy several months ahead of us so I hope you will be ready to contribute when the time comes.

Now I need to get back to making my Hamvention list.
 — 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ, President
 Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

I got married for better or for worse...
 but not for lunch
 — Bill Hill W3WH

WASHNet 2006 NCS Schedule

05/07	Paul NØVLR	06/04	Bell Family
05/14	Carol KB3GMN	06/11	Bill W3WH
	or Richie N3SBF	06/18	Michael KB3HFP
05/21	Kevin N3HKQ	06/25	Hank KB3FNM
05/28	Harold K3HCR	Alternate —	Ron WN3VAW

What was it? Spring in the air? The Pirates actually won a game? Hamvention just a few weeks away? Whatever the reason, April 29th was another beautiful Spring morning, and it brought along a nearly full compliment of the **WASH Breakfast Gang**, at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. Packing the tables this morning were W3WH, N3SBF, KB3GMN, KB3HVN, W4ZE, K3VX, WB4GCS, KC4WTT, K3HCR, N3HKQ & Peg, KB3FNM & Mary Lou, and WN3VAW. Squeezing in to a full restaurant (the place was close to packed that morning) were W4ZE, N3HKQ and Peg, KB3CPI, KB3GMN, N3SBF, N3DFK, KB3FNM and Mary Lou, KB3WAF, W3SRL, W3WH and Linda, and WN3VAW. Topics of the morning included old & new calls, Dayton transportation, Field Day prep, injury update, Pa QSO Party planning, fun with retail, beards at work, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, being from NJ (you've got a problem with that?), hurricane season, logo copyrights, and Spring Break Driving — NC NJ FL NJ NC.

See what you've been missing? Find out! Then join us for the next club breakfast, on Saturday, May 27th, 2006, 8:00 AM, at **The Beach House**, on Library Road / Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. See you there!

Congratulations to Harold K3HCR, formerly KB3CPI, on his new call!

All Star Game Special Event Station? Spoke with Bob N3WAV at the 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest. He's been trying to coordinate activity for the proposed All Star Game Special Event Station. He's gotten no where trying to talk with people in Major League Baseball about permission... they're either disinterested, don't know (or care) about Amateur Radio, and kept referring him to the Media people. At this point in time, it appears that IF there is activity, it will be "unofficial" and not have the blessing of MLB. He's still trying, but it doesn't look good at this point.

Donations at this year's Christmas/Holiday Party? Pat KC4WTT brought up the idea at the April Breakfast that every family who attends this year's Christmas party bring along a toy to donate to "Toys for Tots" or a similar area program. She's also volunteered to coordinate the effort. If you're interested in helping out with this worthy cause, please contact Pat directly.

On the mend (we hope): Heard recently from George W3GEL, who was a no-show at **WASHFest** this year. George has been suffering from some serious medical problems of since last fall. He should know by now if treatment has been successful or if he'll need additional treatments. Drop him a note at gelang@comcast.net and let him know you're thinking about him!

April 20th VE Session Results: "Our latest VE session was at the Peters Twp. Library on April 20th. Our successful candidates at this session were:

- Ralph McCullough WB3YFQ, who upgraded to Extra.
- Michael J. Finegan, KB3LAS, who upgraded to Extra.
- Joseph M. Brozovich, who previously held a Novice license, passed Elements 2 and 3 to become a General, call sign KB3NKS.
- Lester R. Shields, also previously licensed with his Novice credit, passed Elements 2, 3, and 4 to become an Extra, call sign AB8WK.
- Eugene E. Lyle, another previously licensed individual, passed his Element 2 exam to become a Technician, call sign KB3NKR.

Many thanks to all the VEs who attended to make the session not only possible, but made it run smoothly.

VEs in attendance were: Ed, N3ZNI, Joe, WA3WMB, Frank KB3FZU, Bob, KB3IN, Bill, KB3LK, and myself. Particular thanks to Bob and Bill for coming along to help out, volunteerism above and beyond the call of duty."
 — Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Coordinator

WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest: Plans are already underway for the (now) annual club picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest. Same as always — bring a covered dish or desert, the club will provide burgers, dogs, and drinks, and plan to have a good time. (And someone bring a camera along this year!) Please contact WN3VAW if you have any questions on what to bring or how much!

Larry O'Toole K3LBP, has been appointed ARRL Section Manager of Western PA effective April 20th.
 O'Toole takes over the Section Manager reins from Rich Beaver, N3SRJ, who recently stepped down.
 O'Toole, who lives in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, was appointed by ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N.
 His background is in public service & emergency communications.

Minutes, April 13th Meeting

Steve Lane W3SRL, Acting Secretary, **WASH**

Meeting was called to order by Ron, WN3VAW at 19:11 hours local time. (None of the elected officers could be present this evening, so Ron officiated and Steve, W3SRL recorded the minutes.) There were 15 members and 1 guest present.

A moment of silence to honor recently departed silent keys and other deserving parties was observed.

Introductions were made, as is our custom.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was made by N3ZNI and seconded by N3RNX and carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer – Mark, N3RDV (by proxy) - read and accepted.

Secretary – No report.

VE – Jacque, N3ZEL – VEC session April 20, 2006; Peters Twp Library. Need volunteers!

QSL manager – Ed, N3ZNI – Cards in & out, and still receiving cards for NP2SH, believe it or not.

Repeaters-Pete, N3RNX/Steve, W3SRL – Playing right long. Need to get up there to do a spring-tune-up on the 146.955 machine.

Club FM Net –No report.

Public Service – Dave, N3IDH: Mother's day "Race for the Cure" bike tour on Sunday, May 11th, volunteers needed. Contact N3RDV for details.

Contests – Ted, W4ZE - Mid Atlantic QSO party May 13-14. 36 hours this year. RTTY Contest next weekend.

Activities – Larry, K3VX – Dayton & Field Day – Library Sportsman's Club. The word will be put out on the reflector for Field Day. FD pins were to be ordered this month, distributed at FD.

Quartermaster – Harold, KB3CPI Nothing of notice to report.

Newsletter – Ron, WN3VAW - PA QSO Party Bonus Station Status No word on the bonus station for the PA QSO party.

Old Business NONE

New Business N3ZNI and K3VX seconded to order 30 FD pins for 2006.

Good of the order – 2006 Field Day & Dayton. GS cookies available, see WN3VAW. WB4GCS will be needing more help with his tower project, updates will be posted on the reflector. AMSAT will be presenting at Dayton for 2 hours, including an update on Eagle, with WB4GCS as a featured speaker. WACOM is having a Tech class Apr 22,23,29 with a VE session on Apr. 29. VE session is open to all.

Motion to adjourn at 20:47 on a motion by N3RNX and seconded by N3IDH and carried.

WASH Spotlight: N3SH 2005



Congratulations to all of last year's N3SH operators for winning Mercer County! And in case you were wondering, W4ZE/3 won Washington and WA3SH won Fayette!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2006 Larry Comden K3VX.

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 at yahoo dot com](mailto:wn3vaw@yahoo.com)

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!



Join us this month at **The Beach House**, on Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. Start time is about 8 AM until ????? Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2006	N2QIV	W4ZE	KB3IVX	WASH /MM	Silent Keys
K3EED	N3AWF	WA3JPP	KB3LIX	KA3UPY	
K3LGM	N3CZZ	WA3WMB	KE8RN	WASH GA	
K3VX	N3DFK	WA3YFQ	N0PEU	K3OL	K3EED
K3WJL	N3HKQ	WB4GCS	N3BSQ	KB3IJX	KB3ENX
KB3CPI	N3IDH	WO3Z	N3PN	WASH NE	KB3FQT
KB3FNM	N3KFD		N3RHT	N0PEU	N3FZ
KB3FZU	N3QMV	2005	N3RNX	WASH NY	N3KEH
KB3GMN	N3RDV	K3JDS	N3TBK	KE3XB	N3OBD
KB3GMP	N3SBF	K3PCF	N3VEH	N3YPB	N3SKR
KB3GMU	N3UE	KA3NMG	N3ZCG	WASH OH	N3SRC
KB3KGP	N3XI	KA3TWI	W3GEL	N8DPW	N3XFE
KB3KOT	N3ZEL	KB3DCO	W3HND	WASH TX	W3ZLK
KB3MRT	N3ZNI	KB3EPI	W3JAF	K3LGM	
KB3NAF	W3RJM	KB3GUZ	W8LEV	WASH VI	
KC4WTT	W3RWS	KB3HVN	WA3RVD	NP2JF	
KE7FD	W3SRL	KB3IAC	WN3VAW		
N0VLR	W3VFA	KB3IRQ			
N0WPV	W3WH	KB3IVW			

Through March 16th, 2006

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

WASH Apparel!

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

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

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks Again to Shawn N0PEU for providing the site!

N3SH to be Bonus Station

continued from Page 1

(Oh, and just to be clear: By "Primary" stations, we're talking about stations that will be on the air the entire contest, at least 2 or 3 transmitters at a time, staffed by 10 or so operators. "Secondary" stations will run a single transmitter most of the time, with occasionally a second rig or mode running simultaneously, staffed by 2 to 5 ops. We'd really not want to see single op N3SH stations if possible, as we'd like to see each station on the air as much as possible)

And that's the tricky part. You see, to be the Bonus Station, we're committed to having multiple signals on the air — the more bands and modes the better. And the Harrisburg group set a new standard a few years back by running W3UU/R from multiple counties. It's now up to us to meet or even exceed that standard. And we can do it!

So at the May meeting, we're going to spend a few minutes hashing over some of the possibilities and try to select our best options, while maintaining the flexibility to adjust as conditions warrant. If you have some ideas, that will be the best time to come out and toss them into the ring.

Now in the meantime:

- Ted W4ZE has volunteered to host the N3SH Washington effort. Ted is planning to operate primarily, if not exclusively, RTTY. (This does bring up the question as to whether or not we'd want to run a separate N3SH Washington for SSB, CW, and PSK-31.)
- There has been a general assumption that many or most of the WA3SH Fayette ops will return, simply running this year as N3SH/R Fayette. We'd hate to break up a winning team, but perhaps some of these ops will help out at other stations, or perhaps we'll split the group and run some of them from another county?
- Who will host the N3SH Allegheny effort?

- What other counties do we want to put a station into? Early candidates appear to be, in no particular order, Greene, Armstrong, Butler, Mercer, and Lawrence. We may already have a QTH for a Butler op. Forest, Clarion and Westmoreland are possibilities too — all places that some of our current or former club members have operated from at one time or another in past years contests.
- A few people have asked if they can have non-member friends help out. The initial reaction is sure, why not? We do have overlaps with other area clubs (especially WACOM and Steel City), and anything that encourages others to participate is a good thing!
- Each station will run a separate log; we'll merge them for QSL purposes after the fact. Trying to network on the fly stations in some of the more remote areas of WPA is a technical challenge, and certainly doable, but may take more effort for our club than it's worth... this year...
- In addition to QSL's, we can also offer a certificate to stations working multiple N3SH locations. For example, if we end up with 7 counties active, offer a "basic" certificate for anyone working any 3 counties, a "bronze" certificate for working 4, "silver" for 5, "gold" for 6, and "platinum" for all 7 — and this could be a real challenge if one or two stations concentrate on a single mode!
- And if we have enough stations QRV, why not a little competition between ourselves?

These are just a few thoughts based on feedback to date. A gain, nothing's in stone yet, so if you have an idea, now is the time to bring it forward!

Looking forward to another great effort by the club in this year's contest... remember, we won 3 counties multi-op in 2005, let's top that in 2006!

— 73, Ron Notarius WN3VAW

New BPL Complaint arrives as ARRL Nudges FCC to Answer Earlier Filings

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, May 5th, 2006 — Another Manassas, Virginia, radio amateur has joined the growing list of those filing formal complaints about disruptive interference from the city's broadband over power line (BPL) system. The May 4th letter from ARRL member Arthur R. Whittum, W1CRO, went to the FCC's Spectrum Enforcement Division just one day before the ARRL again prevailed upon the same office to act on several earlier--and similar--complaints of BPL interference. Whittum reported that BPL interference to his mobile station on April 25 and May 3 made 40-meter SSB operation impossible "during a transit of streets in Manassas" covering about two miles.

"The digital hash from BPL obliterated even strong signals on 7255 kHz to the point of unintelligibility," Whittum wrote the FCC. "Since I couldn't identify who was transmitting or who was net control, I couldn't check into the nets and couldn't even identify whether or not there was any radio message traffic destined for this area."

Whittum said his latest complaint is the third he's attempted to submit. "The first two seem to have gone astray, even though they were introduced in advance by e-mail," he told Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey. "I hope this one finds its way to you."

On May 5th, the ARRL wrote Casey to ask when the FCC planned to respond to longstanding interference complaints from four other Manassas radio amateurs. The League said it also wants to know when it can expect the FCC to require BPL system operator COMTek, equipment maker Main.net and the City of Manassas "to comply with the

Commission's rules governing radiated emissions and the non-interference requirement of §15.5 of those rules."

On March 7th, Casey called on the city and COMTek to follow up on the January 19th complaint of Dwight Agnew, AI4II, citing harmful BPL interference along Virginia Business Route 234. The Commission instructed the city to conduct measurements to ensure its system complies with FCC Part 15 rules and to "resolve any continuing harmful interference." In another letter the same day, Casey asked George Tarnovsky, K4GVT; Donald Blasdel, W4HJL; William South, N3OH and Jack Cochran, WC4J, to provide additional information regarding their longstanding interference complaints or the FCC would not consider them further. All four provided the requested addenda by early April.

"Since then, no action has been taken by the Spectrum Enforcement Division," the League said in its May 5th letter to Casey. "An investigation of these complaints is now long overdue and amply justified by the responses of Messrs Cochran, Tarnovsky, Blasdel and South to your March 7th, 2006, letter."

On April 6th, COMTek filed a report with the FCC in response to Agnew's interference complaint. The company said it did not believe the Manassas BPL system caused the interference Agnew and other Manassas ham radio operators have heard. Agnew told the ARRL a few days after COMTek's report that the BPL interference continues.

In a consolidated complaint on behalf of Tarnovsky, Blasdel and South filed October 13th, the ARRL asked the FCC to order the BPL system shut down "until the operator can demonstrate compliance with the requirement that it not cause harmful interference to licensed radio services."

In Honor of National Safe Boating Week, the United States Power Squadron's Amateur Radio Net will be operating from the Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, on June 2nd & 3rd.

All are invited to join USPS & ARRL on the air!

For more information on this event or on the USPS, please contact Don Stark N3HOW at stark84@nb.net

Is It Time?

Ron Notarius WN3VAW

I almost ran this in last month's issue, but between all the great articles we already had, and the fact that it was the April issue...

I've had my call a long time. The piece of paper from the FCC, right down to good old Ben F. Waple's reproduced signature, came in the mail in the summer, shortly after the family moved from NJ to PA in 1973... almost 33 years ago. (No, I haven't joined QCWA yet, don't change the subject!)

Back then, my only hope of a call sign change would have been to upgrade, trading in my "N" for an "A;" move to another district and take what they gave me... or get my Extra (with my code speed then? Hah!) and stick it out until I could trade my call in for the next available 1x2. And that would have been a 25 year wait!

Times changed... the 25 year wait was eventually dropped, all Novice calls got switched to permanent calls, the "N" series 1x2's were reassigned to the Amateur Service, and in some districts, "A" series 2x2's were assigned to some Extras. Then came 1978, and with it, the imposition by the FCC of our current call sign assignment system, with new prefixes and call sign blocks, and the ability to keep your assigned call when you moved out of district. And in more recent times, the Vanity system came into being, and with it, the ability (within some limitations) to pick the call you want.

In all that time, my call never changed. It wasn't always easy... I've been called a bootlegger, a Novice out of band, and a lot of other things by US hams not familiar (pre-Vanity) with the old style call. I've had more contest, DX and DXpedition stations butcher my call than I care to recount (being in pileups with VE3VAW was REAL fun!). But I came to enjoy the rhythm of my call on CW, and as time went by, I got used to it.

But every now and then I wonder... has the time come to change it?

I've thought about it. I got my Tech in the same test session (St. Patrick's Day, 1978, State College PA) that generated some of the first amateur N3AAx 1x3 calls. When the WN3 2x1 calls were being issued, I thought of trying to time it to shorten my call, to WN3V or even WN3A or WN3W (but chickened out when I realized that there was no guarantee I'd be able to time it right); besides, I'm old fashioned, I really wanted a 1x2 if I was going to get anything. And when the Vanity calls were available, the initial cost (\$70 for 10 years) was more than I wanted to (or could) spend.

On the other hand, it has been a long time. And when a noted and respected ham like Martti OH2BH gently chides me about it being more than time to change to a "grown up" call (as he did a few years ago at Dayton), to say nothing of local hams like the former W3IBT, it does make me consider the matter again.

OK, so, what 1x2 to ask for? I'd want to stay a "3," just wouldn't feel right to have any out-of-district call; like I said, I'm old-fashioned (a "2?" I haven't lived in NNJ for a LONG time!). As far as I can tell, all of the short versions of my call (WN3V, A or W; N3VA, W3AW, N3AW, W3VA, and so on) are taken, have been for a long, long time. So are variations on my initials (ie N3RJ, W3RN, etc.)

Hmmm. What about a play on my old college club's call? They're still K3CR, and KC3R is a club station (with the same trustee as 'CR); W3CR and N3CR are taken. So are the variations on their old W3YA/W8YA and W8XE calls.

A 2x2? WN3VA? WV3AW? Nah, what would be the point of just dropping one letter? Not too many other combinations appeal to me.

A 1x3? Most "N" 1x3's are too relatively new, it would have to be a "K" or "W". Which one? W3VAW? Eh. N3VAW? A Tech out near Philly – wonder how many of my DX QSO's he gets cards for? K3VAW is still out in Westmoreland Co... haven't talked to her for awhile, hope she's still doing well! K / W3RJN? Too close to W3RJM, too confusing. And like a 2x1, just not really to my taste.

No, if I'm going to change, a 1x2 would be the way to go. Just don't see one currently available that I really like. You might say that all the "good" 1x2 calls are taken... and quite a few held by ops outside of the 3rd district, who never lived here and never will. Makes me understand what KH2D used to complain about, before he moved from Guam to Florida and became W4/KH2D...

Bottom line is, I'm just too used to the call. I just can't see changing it.

But I'll tell you what. I'll let you guys give me some advice. No, really. No promises – but take a look at the "3" district 1x2's currently available (at Vanity HQ out on the 'net), or coming available in the next few months, and let me know if you think any of them are a good fit. Has to have decent phonetics on phone and a good rhythm on CW. (W3VR? Hmmm. Wonder if Al & Mae would mind... but two "2's" have already put in for it...)

Find me a good call, and I might just finally listen to Martti, break down and change, after all these years.

Hey, at least I've now been licensed over 25... right?

German Experimental Stations on 440 kHz

Geri Holger, DK8KW/W1KW, in Peine near Hannover, reports that German telecommunication authorities have issued him an experimental license to operate on the "medium wave" frequency of 440 kHz using the call sign DI2BO. He joins Walter Staubach, DJ2LF, in Dormitz near Nuernberg, who's been operating experimental station DI2AG on 440 kHz. Tests have been under way on that frequency since January 2005, Holger says, "to study the special propagation conditions on medium wave." Holger says CW beacon transmissions (which include call sign and grid square) will be sent on 440 kHz (±100 Hz), maximum 200 Hz bandwidth at a maximum power of 9 W ERP. "Both beacon transmissions will be coordinated in a way so that they can be observed simultaneously to study the propagation from both locations at the same time," Holger explained. "Also, two-way contacts between both experimental stations are planned." DI2BO is using a marine radio transmitter running about 130 W output into a top-loaded 18-meter umbrella antenna. He calculates the ERP is around 5 W. Further information is on the DK8KW Longwave Information Web site, <http://www.qru.de/di2bo.html>

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California PUC Approves BPL Regulations

ARRL Web Extra

NEWINGTON, CT, April 28th, 2006 — Saying that broadband over power line (BPL) will bring Internet access to "underserved communities," the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has adopted regulatory guidelines for electric utilities and companies that wish to develop BPL projects in that state.

While the Commission's BPL guidelines include a requirement to maintain the safety and reliability of the electric distribution system, the state agency has no jurisdiction over radio frequency interference, which received no mention in the PUC's news release. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFL, points out that the utility industry still must meet another tier of federal regulations that govern permitted BPL signal levels and interference issues.

"Although this action addresses how BPL operators will be responsible to state regulators, it does not address any of the technical problems with BPL in any way," Hare observed. "Utilities will still have to carefully choose BPL vendors with a proven track record of preventing interference complaints."

Benefits vs Uphill Battle

The CPUC said it wants to foster BPL deployment to solve the "last mile" problem of broadband delivery and to increase consumer choice in broadband providers. "BPL has the potential to bring broadband Internet services to communities who do not have broadband service available today from the telephone companies or cable companies," said CPUC President Michael R. Peevey. "BPL can also provide benefits to electric customers by enabling valuable 'smart grid' applications that could improve electric system reliability and support money-saving energy management technologies."

One commissioner suggested that BPL faces an uphill battle. "This is a nascent technology with technological, market, and financial hurdles before it," commented CPUC member John Bohn. "By removing unnecessary regulations from its path, we free BPL entrepreneurs to invest and take the risks they want, while protecting ratepayers from any downside."

Demonstrably Wrong

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that while the League's concern is with BPL interference and not with the viability of BPL in the broadband marketplace, "it's odd to see the California PUC echoing the pro-BPL rhetoric that was coming out of the FCC two years ago and that is so demonstrably wrong today." Sumner points out that BPL has been around for years now, and "after all the hype," the most-recent FCC statistics show no more than about 4000 BPL lines in service in the entire US.

"The California PUC would better serve its citizens by focusing on more capable broadband technologies, such as fiber and wireless, that do not have the potential to disrupt radio communication," Sumner concluded.

Utility Commissioners' Task Force Expresses Reservations

The February 2006 National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) "Report of the Broadband over Power Lines Task Force" included reservations about the technology expressed by utilities themselves. "First Energy commented that it is still not clear that BPL technologies live up to their hype," the report noted. Con Edison said the technology still has credibility issues. "Don't tell me what it can do; show me what it can do," the report quotes the utility. PPL and Idacomm called a halt to their BPL activities in Pennsylvania, Nevada and Idaho. NARUC's year-earlier task force report pointed to the unclear regulatory climate for BPL and the costs of its deployment in rural areas as obstacles.

ARRL Staffer Testified on Early Policy Draft

In February 2005, ARRL staff member Dean Straw, N6BV, testified at a CPUC public hearing on an earlier CPUC draft on broadband deployment — including BPL. In his testimony, Straw — an electrical engineer and an ARRL technical editor — decried the fact that a section of the draft policy document dealing with BPL neglected to mention the technology's disadvantages.

He cited interference from BPL to radio receivers, interference to BPL from radio transmitters and a lack of bandwidth for expansion, especially in instances where BPL interference must be mitigated in some fashion.

"We are not opposed to Internet broadband services," Straw maintained on behalf of the Amateur Radio community at large. "We're not categorically opposed to Access BPL, but we are opposed categorically to interference." Straw urged caution against what he called "a wholesale embracing" of BPL on the part of the CPUC.

The policy the CPUC adopted April 27th stemmed from a draft developed by CPUC member Rachele Chong, a former FCC commissioner.

CPUC's Goals

The CPUC said its action, among other things, would allow the flexibility of third parties or electric utility affiliates to invest in and operate BPL systems; require utilities to follow affiliate transaction rules for transactions between a utility and BPL affiliate to protect against cross subsidies and other anticompetitive concerns; require companies installing BPL equipment on utility infrastructure to pay pole attachment fees; align investor risks and rewards, including ratepayer/shareholder sharing of any access fees exceeding the pole attachment fees; and exempt certain types of BPL-related transactions from regulatory review.

The Bands are Going to "Hell"

Roger Barklay W6LAX



For the past six or seven years I've enjoyed the leisurely pace of Hellschreiber, a digital mode that prints across your computer screen a bit like a fax, which is why it is sometimes dubbed the "fuzzy mode".

Feld-Hell chugs along at 25 wpm, and some software allows you to print simple pictures like smiley faces and stars. Mostly you'll find US operators

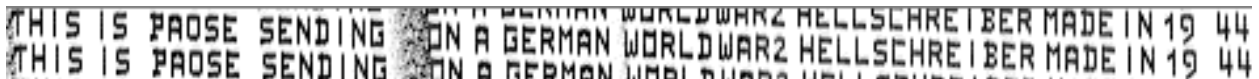
There is a rich history to this mode, which was originally patented in 1929 by Rudolf Hell and used extensively in portable field operations during WWII. It eventually was employed by some news services and remained in use as recently as 1980. Unlike teleprinters, Hellschreiber machines had only two moving parts and so were mobile and dependable.

Today you don't need a Hellschreiber machine because of software by IZ8BLY, MultiPSK or the commercial MixW.

Until recently, Hellschreiber enthusiasts were sometimes frustrated by the low level of activity in the mode. Then in March a Feld-Hell club was formed which has stimulated new interest in the old fuzzy mode. Membership is free and there are some achievement awards, links to a cluster that spots digital stations, a club newsletter and a weekly 20-meter net.

You can learn about the Hellschreiber mode, join the club and get links to software at <http://www.feldhellclub.co.uk/>.

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Pickled Ham Craig Sturman N7ZSD

There are things that will make a ham radio operator all wild-eyed and crazy. Kind of like poison ivy. A ham walking down the street in this condition will cause passers-by to take a wide berth and small children will hide behind the parents' coat tails. People will see the expression that has been permanently burned into a hams' face and think that he knows something that they don't. Like some hideous creature is behind them or aliens are attacking. Some hams stutter or have a violent nervous tw...twi...twitch. Here's a look into the possible causes.

EGO: Most hams have an ego problem. They actually believe that they can homebrew a project cheaper and better than a commercially manufactured one. While this is true in some cases, generally the project will cost 3 times that of a commercial product. This is due to the repeated trips to Radio Shack (Cell Phone Shack). You can order the parts online and save money, but when you need a 47 uF electrolytic capacitor, you need it now. So, one ends up running into Radio Shack (Cell Phone Shack) only to pay 3 prices for something that would have been a lot cheaper online. Then of course, you have to look around to see if there is anything else you can't live without. You know, like remote control cars, a few connectors, or perhaps a cell phone. Did you know that Radio (Cell Phone) Shack sells cell phones? But I digress...

The XYL: The XYL plays a major role in molding the psyche of the ham as well. For all the neat little toys we buy, we must compensate the XYL with a gift. Call it a bag of guilt. "Here honey, here's a dozen roses, because I love you.... And... uh...well, I went ahead and bought that new radio we talked about. Oh, we didn't discuss that? I was sure we did...Boy, those roses smell great! Why don't you go find a vase to put them in, and I'll get this radio hooked up." This is about the time you get "the look". You know what I mean...the look. The one you get from the XYL after purchasing a new rig or accessory. The one you can feel burning it's way through the back of your head. Or was that the vase of flowers that just hit the back of your head?

Tweaking: With electronic equipment there is a fine line between optimal performance and thermal meltdown. A ham radio operator will try to "tweak" his rig for optimal performance. When that fine line is crossed, he will hurl out a stream of obscenities that will stunt the growth of nearby trees and stagger small animals. Been there, done that! Sometimes my cursing is interrupted by my nervous twitch.

The Brain Cramp: The brain cramp differs from tweaking in that while performing a tweak, one is purposely trying to reach an objective. The brain cramp is the direct result of not thinking at all. A friend of mine accidentally pumped 50 watts of FM carrier directly into his 2-meter handheld radio...Ouch! The queen mother of all brain cramps! I once spent 6 hours diagnosing a sound card interface only to find out that the mute button in the sound card control panel was checked! That is 6 hours of my life I will never get back! Like the results of a tweaking gone bad, the nervous twitch and the steady stream of obscenities usually follow the brain cramp, which explains the sickly trees and shrubs in my yard, why my fish have gone belly-up, and why my dogs have to see the doggie shrink on a regular basis!

IQ: There are a lot of very intelligent hams out there. Then there's the rest of us. We buy important looking books and technical manuals to keep in the shack so that we give the appearance of having an IQ higher than a box of rocks. I actually started reading a book called "General Rocket Science & Engineering". It's a good thing I fell asleep, as I may have been scarred for life! That kind of reading can be downright hazardous to a person's psyche. I also started reading a book called "Memory's voice: Deciphering the mind-brain code". It's a good thing I didn't finish either book and pursue a career, because between the two I would be looking for a job as a rocket psychologist!

Geekhood: When I was in High School there were always those kids who were into computers, chess, drama, and other things I didn't really understand. They usually had glasses that were taped together and a pocket protector. We called them geeks. Now I am one! I try to explain my amateur radio hobby to my friends and they don't get it, so I'm sure they think I'm a geek. I am a really cool geek, but a geek just the same. As my psychiatrist makes me repeat to myself over and over, "I'm a geek, and that's okay". The hard part is not to appear geeky. Just don't go out and buy a really tacky hat with your call sign on it. (Mine is hidden in the junk drawer of my shack!) My glasses are broken, but I refuse to tape them together. A pocket protector really is a good idea, but they don't keep me from ink staining the back pocket of my Wranglers!

And last but not least...

Budget: If you are a ham radio operator you know that this is an expensive hobby. One can spend thousands of dollars and still not be satisfied. Someone else will always have a better transceiver or antenna. That's where home brewing comes into play. I'm not talking about home brewing beer to drown your sorrows either. Being able to build something with your own two hands that actually works (the way it was intended) is one of the best ego-boosters known to man. Someday just for fun, I would like to build a tuna can radio and be able to send a Morse code signal for help from the backcountry while fending off a grizzly bear. However, any grizzly bear would only have to see the permanent expression on my face and my nervous twitch and he would know he has tangled with the wrong guy!

DX News Briefs

KU9C now has the logs from the recently completed **Aves Island Dxpediton YXØA / YXØLIX**. He passes along the following: "On a very personal note, my work follows what has to be one of the most heroic operation by a team that I've been involved with. Having a team member become a SK during the operation had to be one of the most difficult life experiences for the team. However, they persevered, and gave out over 45K QSOs to the deserving.



Now, many of you have noted that the online logs do not match your logs. This is one of the issues with on-line logs. I've been doing this a LONG time, and I've always found DXpedition logs to have issues with band/mode changes, etc, that are not correctly reflected in the log. This is one of the reasons that the complete data is not provided in the web log; it provides the QSL manager with some latitude to review the log based on QSLs received, and see if there are any problems that can be corrected before the QSLs are issued. I plan to NOT reply to each of your emails; I've received over 150 to date, and they all are relative to QSOs not being in the log, or incorrect band/mode.

You can trust that I will thoroughly examine each of your QSOs against the log, and do my best to ensure that you get credit for each QSO that match the log entries. I suspect many of the issues raised in the emails will be resolved. Note that there is always the possibility of a SLIM operator that will result in a not-in-log as well as some true not-in-logs. Remember, I've been doing this 20 plus years; I've seen most everything, and I'll do my level best to do my job with speed and integrity." — KU9C

The final agenda for the DX forum for HamVention® is as follows:

- 11:00 - 11:35 - Desecheo Island (**KP5**) Project 2006, presented by Kamal Sirageldin, N3KS, and David Collingham, K3LP
- 11:40 - 12:15 - Kure Island 2005 - **K7C**, Presented by John Kennon, N7CQQ
- 12:20 - 12:55 - The **3YØX** Dxpperience, Presented by Don DuBon, N6JRL with an introduction by Robert Alphin, K4UEE
- 1:00 - 1:35 - Sable Island **CYØAA**, Presented by Joseph Pater, W8GEX, Wayne McKenzie, K8LEE, and Phil Florig W9IXX
- 1:40- 2:00 - **VU4** Andaman Islands 2006 presented by Bernie McClenny W3UR — SWODXA

W7EJ will be QRV as **CN2R** during the CQWW CW Contest. He will also be QRV on the WARC bands prior to the contest. QSL via W7EJ — OPDX

QSL Routes

1AØKM via KIØFTA — EU1SA	R1ANT via RW1AI — K3WI
3DAØRN via G4IRN — EU1SA	R1MVC via DK4VW — KZ2I
3V8KO via I5JHW — N7DC	S61FD via PAØKHS — RA3SL
4K9W via DL6KVA — W2IRT	S79RJ via DJ7RJ — K1NU
4U1UN via HB9BOU — KA2BZS	ST2YJ via LA4YW — RA3SL
5H1C via F5TVG — W9OL	SV5/SM8C via SMØCMH — K3WI
5I3A via A47RS — K1NU	T88WX via JA1WSX — RA3SL
5T5AFF via JA1AFF — EU1SA	T88ZX via K7ZZ — RA3SL
7P8AD via IK2ANI — EU1SA	TJ3FR, TJ3SP via DL7UFR — EU1SA
8N1C5ØA via JA1XUY — W2IRT	TN4NW via N4XP — N4XP
9G1MR via IK3HHX — EU1SA	TT8PJ via F4EGS — W2IRT
9Q5NW via N4XP — NKØS	TO9A via K3TEJ — W2IRT
9M2TO via JAØDMV — RA3SL	TY3M via I8ACB — PT7WA
9V1YC via N5ID — KK6T	TY5WP via PA7FM — JJ1BDX
A71EM via EA7FTR — W2IRT	TYØT via I8ACB — PT7WA
C56JHF via SMØJHF — N5ZM	V41TP via WCØW — K3WI
D88S via DS4CNB — K5AQ	VP8PJ via DL5EEB — K3WI
EK6LP via IK2DUW — RA3SL	XQ3ZW via CE3AA — RA3SL
HBØ/T94JJ via DJ2MX — W2IRT	XU7AFB via KB4FB — JJ1BDX
HQ9F via OH3MKH — W2IRT	XW3DT via RK3DT — WØBV
J6DX via N9AG — W9OL	YI9KT via SP8HKT — K1NU
J68AS via N9AG — W9OL	YI9GT via SP3GTS — K1NU
J88DR via G3TBK — KK6T	YK1QM via IK2DUW — RA3SL
KG4SB via N4BAA — K3WI	YM125ATA via TA3J — TA3J
MJØAWR via K2WR — K3WI	ZA/DM5TI via DL2RMC — WA3FRP
MUØEXV via F6EXV — W2IRT	ZD8R via N6ND — RA3SL

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



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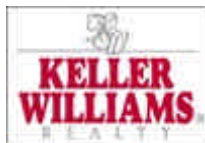
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FCC News

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

Newington, CT, May 3rd, 2006 — Several FCC Part 97 Amateur Radio rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) now are in effect. The FCC Order, released in January, affects §97.111, Authorized transmissions; §97.113, Prohibited transmissions; §97.115, Third party communications, and §97.117, International communications. The Federal Register published the changes May 3. The FCC has yet to deal with the so-called "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, which also stemmed from decisions made at WRC-03. The Commission has proposed deleting the Element 1 5 WPM code test as a requirement to obtain any Amateur Radio license.



"These amendments will ensure that the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules conform to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, and will further the Commission's ongoing efforts to streamline its Amateur Service Rules," the FCC Order said. "The overall effect of this action is to update the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules in the Code of Federal Regulations to conform to now-effective international agreements."

The FCC Order revises:

§97.111(a)(1) to permit "transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the Amateur Service, except those in any country whose administration has notified the ITU that it objects to such communications. The FCC will issue public notices of current arrangements for international communications." The old language permitted communication among amateur stations in different countries "except those in any country whose administration has given notice that it objects to such communications."

The FCC said the change does not prejudice its consideration of comments to rule changes it's proposed to §97.111(a)(2) in WT Docket 04-140—the so-called "Omnibus" proceeding that covers a wide range of rule changes and proposals. The Commission has proposed amending that rule section to clarify that amateur stations may at all times and on all authorized channels transmit communications necessary to meet essential needs and to facilitate relief actions.

§97.115(a)(2) to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, whether or not a third-party agreement is in place between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station "when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications" as well as with any non-US station "whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties."

The revised rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic other than emergency or disaster relief communications to a station whose government has not made a third-party arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

§97.113(a)(4) to prohibit amateur stations exchanging messages with amateur stations in other countries from making transmissions that are encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except for control signals exchanged between Earth command stations and space stations in the Amateur-Satellite service, something Part 97 already provides for. The old rule referred to the use of "codes and ciphers."

The same rule also already prohibits transmitting music, communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, obscene or indecent words or language and false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

§97.117 to state that amateur stations may transmit communications incidental to the purposes of the Amateur Service and to remarks of a personal character.

The FCC also revised §97.3 and 97.309 to update the definition of International Morse code and of various digital codes in the amateur rules to reflect changes in the Radio Regulations.

According to the FCC, the WRC-03 Final Acts revised the international regulations that apply to the Amateur and the Amateur Satellite services and became effective July 5, 2003. These Part 97 revisions now bring the FCC's Amateur Service rules into conformance with the international Radio Regulations.

52nd Annual

Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 4th, 2006 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sponsored by the Breezeshooters

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

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

Talk-In on W3UDX/R 147.360+ Repeater

ICOM, Yaesu, Kenwood & MFJ Prizes from KJI Electronics:

1 st Prize:	IC-7000	6 th Prize:	MFJ-259B
2 nd Prize:	TS-2000	7 th Prize:	LDG AT-100 PRO
3 rd Prize:	TS-480ST	8 th Prize:	Astron RS-35A
4 th Prize:	FT-897D	9 th Prize:	MFJ-1279
5 th Prize:	IC-208H	10 th Prize:	Daiwa CN-101

Ten Half-Hour Prizes consisting of Five ICOM IC-V8 and Five Yaesu VX-170 Hand Helds

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

For more information please go to

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



Eighth Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 4th, 2006

from approximately 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

At the **WASH** Club Location

Somewhere Out in the Flea Market

(Look for us in the vicinity of the Grandstand, along the fence, near the Wash House)

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

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

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



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2006



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

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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla. The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals. Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



Join the American Radio Relay League or Renew Your Membership through the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.



Members of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS can start a new membership or renew an existing membership in the American Radio Relay League, the National Organization of Radio Amateurs, through the club. Benefits for you: Joining and participating in everything the League has to offer, including a QST subscription. Benefits for the club: A few more shekels for our coffers.

Just fill out the form below, include a check or money order made out to WASH/ARRL, and return all to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

\$39 in US Additional Family Members at the same address (\$8 per family member)

Age 65 or older, \$36 in US

Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household) Name & Call Sign: _____

Canada \$49 Name & Call Sign: _____

Elsewhere \$62 Name & Call Sign: _____

Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate Name & Call Sign: _____

Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- N3SH to be 2006 Bonus Station!
- Field Day Plans!
- HamVention® is Almost Here!
- Breezeshooter's Is Almost Here!

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



Remembering Father

Considering that May 29th is Father Moran 9N1MM(SK)'s 100th birthday (see article in the June 2006 issue of QST), somehow this photo from his visit to W3KWH in 1983 seemed appropriate. L—R 9N1MM(SK), W3TVB(SK), W3LBE(SK), WN3VAW, unknown.

Photo courtesy of & Copyright ©2006 The Estate of Ben Moore N3BM

The WASHRag

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N3SH / WA3SH
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www.n3sh.org
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