



WASHFest 2006:

Eleven Great Years and Still Going Strong!

The kids' Christmas toys are quietly gathering dust in the corner and the XYL sips her tea as she flips through her stash of spring catalogs with the faint hisses and whoops of 20-meter phone in the background. He idly tunes up and down the band, muttering under his breath about the lousy band conditions when he hears the mailman's footsteps at the door. This scene of pure domestic bliss is suddenly and rudely interrupted with the frantic yelling and screaming normally associated with big buildings smelling faintly of antiseptic, white jackets and big, burly orderlies with no sense of humor whatsoever.

"It's here! It's here!! It is HERE!!!!" he yells at the top of his voice as he jumps up and down like a crazed madman.

"What's here dear?" his bride asks sweetly.

THE **WASHFest** flyer is finally HEEEEERE!" He wails, waving the yellow piece of paper in the air like a senior citizen with a winning Lotto ticket.

"Easy dear", she soothes, "I know you're excited, but your just going to have to wait until February 26th."

"February 26th??? That's almost a WHOLE MONTH away!" he cries.

"Now now dearest" she soothes "it will be here before you know it. Now be a good boy and turn off that horrible racket and help me pick out some begonias for the front flowerbeds."

"BEGONIAS? He cries. Have you lost your MIND woman? I've got STUFF to gather up for the **WASHFest**! And I've only got a month to do it!"

Ok, so "Tim the Tool-Man Taylor" didn't play a ham on the hit TV show 'Home Improvement' but if he had, you could just see his beautiful wife Jill roll her eyes with his lunacy. In fact, if you're reading this, you're probably a ham, and you probably know "the look" quite well by now. You know, the one when your wife realizes that your suddenly renewed vigor is due to the beginning of the upcoming hamfest season in Pittsburgh, marked with the announcement of the annual **WASHFest** in Castle Shannon.

You'll know she's really caught on when she starts hiding the checkbook and the ATM card, and there isn't a sudden rash of new debits posted from "Bed, Bath & Beyond" and "Decorator's Corner".

Seriously folks, as of this writing we are down to almost exactly one month until the **WASHFest** kicks off at Castle Shannon VFD on Route 88 in beautiful downtown Castle Shannon. (Work with me folks, OK?) We've already got a bunch of the regulars lined up with their table reservations and more come in every day, both by mail and by phone. It's looking like we're going to have another nice crowd for our ELEVENTH great annual event. An perhaps more importantly, we've got Jack's Catering on board to keep us full of his "almost famous" breakfast sandwiches an 'at as well as his yummy Roast Beef

(**WASHFest** Continued on page 6)

Next Meeting: February 9th, 2006

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

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

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

Presidential Words

If you were one of the few who missed the January meeting, then you missed hearing about the many activities that WASH set undertake this year. First of all we discussed the rapidly approaching 2 meter contest. Between Paul Lusardi and I, we contacted every known (to us) club in western Pennsylvania with an invitation to participate and a copy of the rules and log in sheet. I think it paid off, because I never heard as many club stations as I did the night of the contest. That along with the non-club members who participated and the level of SSB and CW activity made the night. This year's contest will be hard to beat.



Next there is the tower trailer project that will by next meeting receive a financial shot in the arm due to the efforts of Randy George KB3KGP. That help along with the proceeds from the upcoming **WASHFest** should allow us to proceed to purchasing and constructing the trailer hopefully before Field Day. This part will require the talents of everyone in the club, designers, mechanics, electricians, welders, and painters as well as good old ham skills. Be ready to volunteer when asked.

Speaking of the **WASHFest**, Steve Lane, W3SRL has again single handedly organized this year's event which will be February 26th, 2006 at the Castle Shannon VFD. All the general membership needs to do is show up on the Saturday before to set up and on Sunday to help run it. Look for more details in this

(*Presidential Words Continued on page 6*)

Inside this

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
N3SH Mobile	5
Atlantic Division Awards	5
DX News Briefs	6
FCC News	7
WASHFest 2006 Announcement	8

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 Groundwave Contest SSB March 18th
- WPRC Meeting April 16th, Washington PA *** New Date ***
- 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest April 30th, 2006
- Dayton Hamvention May 19th, 20th, 21st, 2006
- Breezeshooter's Hamfest June 4th
- ARRL Field Day June 24th & 25th, 2006
- North Hills ARC Hamfest July 9th
- Somerset Co ARC Hamfest July 16th

February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 WACOM Meeting (moved) Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	2 AR Classes at Allegheny EOC RA Erie Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	3 Elco ARES Meeting	4 RA Erie VE Test Beaver Valley ARA VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net
			W3C Special Event Station @ Washington Sports Show			
5 Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net W3C	6 Greater Pgh VHF Society Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	7 Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	8 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	9 WASH Meeting AR Classes at Allegheny EOC Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	10	11 Butler Co ARA VE NHARC/Breezeshooters VE 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net
12 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	13 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	14 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtg Fort Venango M&KC Meeting North Hills ARC Net	15 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	16 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net	17 Quad Co ARC Meeting	18 NHARC Elmer Net Groundwave CW ARRL DX CW
19 Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net ARRL DX CW	20 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	21 Steel City ARC Meeting S H B P & M Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting WACOM Net	22 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	23 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	24	25 WASH Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net CO 160 SSB
26 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net WASHFest 2006	27 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	28 Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	3/1 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	3/2 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting AR General Classes at Allegheny Co. EOC 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	3/3 Elco ARES Meeting NWS Skywarn Class, Mercer PA	3/4 NHARC Elmer Net ARRL DX SSB

WASH 2006 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Kevin Smith N3HKQ
VP / Secretary Paul Lusardi NØVLR
VP / Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL
NP2SH Trustee Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH QSL Manager Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
VE Team Liaison Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Webmaster Bob Sanford AA3FI
Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI
WASH FM Net Manager Kevin Smith N3HKQ
WASHFest 2006 Committee Steve Lane W3SRL, Chairman
Carol Danko KB3GMN
Bill Hill W3WH
Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Activities & Operating Events Larry Comden K3VX
Ted Huf W4ZE
Ways & Means Carol Danko KB3GMN
Mobile Tower Project Paul Lusardi NØVLR
Randy George KB3KGP
Allegheny Co ARES Representative (open)

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS & BEACONS:

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

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

THE LEGAL STUFF

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The WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the KB3FZU/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Shawn Djernes NØPEU for providing space on-line for back issues of "The WASHRag™" which can be found at www.washarc.org or www.djernes.org/washrag

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test April 20th

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

January 28th brought with it tidings of comfort and joy (for Steeler fans looking forward to the big game!) and the return of the **WASH Breakfast Gang**, now meeting at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. In attendance this month were KB3CPI, N3ZEL, N3ZNI, N3DFK, W3SRL, WN3VAW, VP2MVX and VP2MWH. Topics of the morning included contest logs, Field Day sites, the booming signal from W3PIE, Pa QSO Party's bonus station, NP2SH memories, thoughts on a 6 meter simplex contest (do we have a volunteer organizer?), the Cone of Invisibility, HF vertical antennas, and 12½ hours of rain in Texas vs. no rain for 3 months in Phoenix... and that's just what's legible from the notes.

Intriguing? Interesting? Then join us for the next club breakfast, on Saturday, February 25th, 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!

WASHfest 2006 Hall Setup: As noted in Steve's article over on Page 1, remember that this month, immediately after breakfast, we'll be heading over to the CSVFD Memorial Hall for table setup. Assuming we leave breakfast around 8:45 (which we did in January), we should be there around 9 or so. Monitor 146.955 for details. It should take less than an hour to get the hall setup — and it sure beats trying to do it at 5 AM on Sunday!

And don't forget that everyone's help is needed during **WASHfest 2006** itself. It doesn't take a lot, but during the day we'll need help manning the admissions table, the club table, parking, and just making sure our vendors and guests are having a good time. Those of you who've been around the last few years already know what to do. For those who are new to the club, just see Steve W3SRL and ask what else he needs help with. If everyone pitches in an hour or two, then we'll have another huge and successful event!

2 Meter Simplex Contest appears to have been a huge hit this year. Early indications are that we had a lot of new entries, a few new club stations operating (who DIDN'T work W3PIE this year?), and a lot of fun had by all. Don't forget that entries are due to N3ZNI by February 8th, and we should have final results in time for the hamfest and the next newsletter.

And speaking of contests, don't forget to look for K3VX and W3WH and crew during the **ARRL DX Contest CW** from Montserrat, operating as **VP2MVX** and **VP2MWH**. We're looking forward to hearing our intrepid DXpedition'ers, bravely suffering the blue skies and warm beaches of an island paradise, all for the sake of DX glory! (Don't get sunburned!)

We'd hope to have some news on the **2006 Pa QSO Party Bonus Station** by now, but word out of State College is that a final decision hasn't been made yet. We're hoping that we get news soon, and that **WASH** is selected to run N3SH as this year's bonus station!

The new www.n3sh.org web site is not up yet, as of deadline. Still, spread the word that the club is changing domain names and will soon have an all-new site with a bunch of new content. Early previews of the new site show that's going to be really sharp!

If you can think of something the new web site should contain, contact Rick KB3IAC with your ideas. Rick will also need a hand, once the new site is up, in maintaining some of the content, in order to keep it fresh and up to date, so volunteers for some of those tasks will be needed too!

January 15th VE Test Results

The following VEs were at the exam session: Ed Salva W3VFA, Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, and Bob Ketzell KB3IN. Also Bill Sheehan, KB3LIX, who is waiting for credentials to arrive and came for experience. Thank you all, you were certainly needed.

Our candidates:

- Donald E. Leech, KB3NAF, who passed Element 3 and upgraded to General.
- Joseph A. Furjanic (a ham some years ago whose license was expired) who passed Elements 1, 2, 3, and 4, and is now again an Extra. He was issued call sign AB3DO but will be applying for his old call as a vanity call.
- John B. Stankiewicz, Jr., KD8CJF, who passed Element 3 and is working on his code.
- David F. Bobro, KB3NCD, who passed Element 2 and is a new Technician.

Congratulations to you all.

73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Suit-Sat 1 (the obsolete space suit containing a 145.99 MHz transmitter) was successfully launched from the ISS on February 3rd. Although only expected to last a few hours, reports were that the suit could still be heard as late as February 5th.

Major media covered the event and gave a lot of positive spin to Amateur Radio.

WASHNet 2006 NCS Schedule

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

WASH Apparel Updates!

Dan KB3HVN & OGS Distributing are continuing to work on the upcoming web page link to permit WASH club members to order shirts, jackets, hats, and whatever direct from the club web page.

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

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

Minutes, January 12th Meeting

Paul Lusardi NØVLR, Secretary, **WASH**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Kevin Smith N3HKQ.

There was a moment of silence for recently departed silent keys, followed by introductions.

Motion to waive the reading of the minutes based on the last newsletter, passed.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Read and accepted. Cost for the new web site to be \$126.21, motion moved by all and passed unanimously.

Secretary (NØVLR): Newsletter should show N3ZNI as N3SH QSL Manager.

VE (N3ZEL): Got 2 VE's for next week's session.

Website (KB3IAC): No longer updating washarc.org, we will use n3sh.org (registered until December 2006.) Working on the website design, presentation to follow meeting.

WASHFest 2006 (W3SRL): Flyers are done and ready for mailing house. N3ZNI will get updated mailing list to Steve. Ed will also call Jack's Catering to confirm the food. HRIA will again provide the coffee; KB3GMN will pick up the coffee supplies. KB3IAC will get 12 dozen donuts. Setup starts around 9:00 AM Saturday the 25th (right after the club breakfast). Main prizes are an FT-857, FT-880, FT-60 worth about \$1300. Door prizes are needed.

Repeaters, APRS Digipeater, & NP2SH beacon (N3RNK, W3SRL, KB3FZU): 146.955 is fine except when VHF fireband in QRV; 131.8 tone is also used by local municipalities. 2 power bills for 443.650 submitted, a new remote receiver site is possible.

Club FM Net (N3HKQ): Another emergency drill to be expected

Public Service (N3RDV/N3IDH): All county ARES net participation

Contests (W4ZE): 2 meter contest January 14th 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Both N3SH & WA3SH calls to be used. W3RJM & team to operate W3KWH. Breezeshooter's groundwave contests February 18th and March 18th. Field day options to be researched – decide next meeting on location. Have the old set of band pass filters been located? (Perhaps they are "under the cone of invisibility")

Activities (K3VX): Montserrat Dxpediton February 14th – 21st. N3ZNI informed us of the WACOM W3C Special Event Station, February 2nd – 5th, all welcome to come and operate.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): Need more news articles and pictures.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Show me the money!

Tower Trailer (KB3KGP & NØVLR): Starting to formulate plans for trailer (purchase or fabricate), will finalize specifications.

President (N3HKQ): Letters to Comcast sent to ask for funding for the tower trailer. Monthly club breakfast resumes January 28th at the Beach House. Short talk on the ARRL ECOM class & participants.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the order: Short discussion on Field Day 2006.

Move to adjourn at 8:30 by N3HKQ, second by KB3GMN, passed.

Have you ever wished that Straight Key Night would go on and on and on? Have you ever wished for other incentives to dig out your old straight key or old bug and knock the dust off? Ever wished they had a Straight Key Night more than once a year? That is a light you see at the end of the tunnel!! Recently, a group of hams have decided to make their wishes come true and founded the Straight Key Century Club - a/k/a "SKCC". Yep, a Straight Key club - where you can dust off your straight key or old bug, and get on the air and torture other ops with your straight key fist . Here's how it will work: A) Open to any interested amateur; B) Membership is free, there are no dues and it shall stay that way as long as practical; C) SKCC numbers are issued for life. Once you get it, it's yours. Take care of it. Above all, USE it.

The first day of each month, at 0000Z will be designated as a monthly operating event that allows SKCC members or non-SKCC members to work each other for credit. Contact with 100 SKCC members will qualify that person for a certificate of accomplishment.

Suggested operating frequencies are: 1.820, 3.530, 3.720, 7.055, 7.120, 10.120, 14.048, 18.080, 21.120, 24.910, 28.170, 50.090, 144.07

For your SKCC number, send an email to KC9ECI, tom@galesvillefiredepartment.org

WASH Spotlight: W3C



Ed N3ZNI and Jim KC3HW operating the W3C Special Event Station from the Washington Sports Show, Steeler PA. Not shown: Jacqué N3ZNI and Bill KB3LIF.

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2006 Paul Lusardi NØVLR

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

AA3FI	KB3IAC	N3PN	W4ZE	WASH MM	Silent
AA3JS	KB3IRQ	N3QMV	W8LEV	KA3UPY	Keys
K3JDS	KB3IVW	N3RDV	WA3JPP	WASH GA	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3IVX	N3RHT	WA3RVD	K3OL	KB3ENX
K3PCF	KB3KGP	N3RNK	WB4GCS	KB3IJX	KB3FQT
K3VX	KB3KOT	N3SBF	WN3VAW	WASH NE	N3FZ
K3WJL	KB3LIX	N3TBK	WO3Z	NØPEU	N3KEH
KA3NMG	KC4WTT	N3VEH		WASH NY	N3OBD
KA3TWI	KE7FD	N3XI		KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3CPI	KE8RN	N3ZCG		N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3DCO	NØPEU	N3ZEL		WASH OH	N3XFE
KB3EPI	NØVLR	N3ZNI		N8DPW	W3ZLK
KB3FNM	NØWPV	W3GEL		WASH TX	
KB3FZU	N2QIV	W3HND		K3LGM	
KB3GMN	N3AWF	W3JAF		WASH VI	
KB3GMP	N3BSQ	W3RJM		NP2JF	
KB3GMU	N3DFK	W3RWS			
KB3GUZ	N3HKQ	W3VFA			
KB3HVN	N3IDH	W3WH			

Through December 30th, 2005
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

N3SH Mobile: WASH 2M Simplex Contest 2006

Larry Comden K3VX

Bill, W3WH and I were supposed to operate this year's WASH Simplex Contest as N3SH/Mobile (again). I got a double surprise when that arrangement fell through. My XYL Tippi, WA3JPP volunteered to log for the four hour test. Last time we operated together was 5 years ago at Field Day.

I borrowed W3SRL's 4 element Yagi, figured out a way to carry it between stops and added a ¼ wave mag-mount vertical. Recall how beautiful the weather was the day before the test. I remembered one outing with Steve's Yagi where it turned (and turned) like a pinwheel in the very strong wind. So on that beautiful Friday I added wooden cross arms and guy ropes to the Yagi mast.

On Saturday night we leave for the most distant zip code in rotten weather. When we arrive at the Ice Palace in Rostraver the wind is !!!mph and it's snowing horizontally. Perfect weather to test the Yagi.

The Yagi is loosely tied in position by guy ropes stiff with ice. We're set to make the first QSO. Tippi logs from the right side back seat and I have the rig control head, mike, keyer and paddle in the front passenger seat.

The plan is to work stations at each location until the rate drops, move on to the next and repeat. The route takes us home as the contest ends. We had only one visitor this year – a Forward Township cop who wanted to know if we had car trouble. I'm sure we looked unusual – woman in back seat writing on a clipboard under the dome light – man in front with a pile of electronics and a mike in hand - the Yagi on the trailer hitch.

The Yagi becomes a major pain as we move from place to place. Finally, I leave it up guyed to the roof rack. Overall, it wasn't worth taking along.



The Yagi in windy weather. Picture courtesy of and ©Copyright 2006 Tippi Comden WB3JPP

Paul, KB3KOT, used a much better horizontally polarized omni antenna – a loop.

Some QTHs are very productive. I especially like 15025. The location is Ridge Road off Route 51 in Jefferson even though this is a Clairton PO zip. From that QTH we worked into Toronto, OH (about 40 mi) and Somerset (50 mi) both on FM. Couldn't quite reach the North Hills to work N3BPB.

I was also pleased about the about of SSB and CW activity this year. I mounted the paddle to a lap-size piece of particle board. Awkward, but effective. Hope to see more of this activity next year.

Thanks to all who made it possible to roll up 110 QSOs and 42 different calls.

Idaho Utility Subsidiary Dumps BPL

courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, January 27, 2006 — IDACOMM, a telecommunications subsidiary of Boise, Idaho-based IDACORP, has bailed out of BPL. While the company has not been providing BPL service on a commercial basis, it has been cooperating with IDACORP subsidiary Idaho Power in a Boise test, and it had partnered with IBM and electric utility CenterPoint Energy to help design, install and operate a BPL pilot project in the Houston, Texas, area. IDACORP Chief Executive Jan Packwood says the company has "fully explored the BPL opportunity" and believes that it has "significant long-term potential," but utilities have not been flocking to adopt the technology.

"Commercialization . . . will require widespread adoption by electric utilities, and we do not see signs of that happening anytime soon," Packwood said in a January 25 announcement. "We have good assets in three of the West's fastest-growing cities, and we believe that concentrating on our home markets and core products of voice and fiber optic transport will achieve profitability much more quickly."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says he views IDACOMM's abandonment of BPL as just part of a larger pattern. "BPL proponents said that 2005 was going to be a big year for the technology," he commented, "but in fact there were exactly as many commercial deployments at the end of the year as at the beginning--two--and the pilot projects are disappearing as companies cut their losses."

IDACOMM says it started exploring BPL because it was a "natural interest" for a telecommunications company already offering broadband and

affiliated with an electric utility. The company was said to be consulting with several other utilities across the US on how to implement the BPL, but it planned to focus its initial commercial forays in states like California and Texas that have statutes promoting BPL.

The company has been working with BPL equipment manufacturers Ambient, Amperion and Mitsubishi. All supply DS2-based hardware which, in some BPL field trials, has proven difficult to effectively "notch" frequency ranges –such as the Amateur Radio bands—to avoid interference.

IDACOMM had touted itself as "the remiere company to offer a comprehensive, turnkey BPL solution stretching across the spectrum of the BPL value chain." The company now says it "will focus exclusively on building its existing competitive local exchange carrier business in Boise, Las Vegas and Reno, and phasing out the portion of the business previously dedicated to exploring the potential of using power lines as the conduit for high speed Internet service, commonly referred to as BPL," although it will fulfill any outstanding BPL-related contracts with other companies.

As a result of the change in corporate strategy, IDACOMM will take "a non-cash charge related to impairment of goodwill of approximately \$10 million" in the fourth quarter of 2005, the company said. That's approximately 24 cents per share at IDACORP. The company has declined to disclose how much money it had invested in BPL.

It's not known if there's any connection between IDACOMM's BPL pullout and the recent departure of its CEO Chris Britton. IDACOMM has said Britton "left the company to pursue other interests."

Atlantic Division 2006 Awards Nominations Sought

Bill Edgar N3LLR

Do you know someone who has really stood out in their service to amateur radio? That service could be in: technical abilities; public service; training; education, you name it.

Wouldn't it be an honor for that individual or group to be recognized by their peers for their time and talents spent in good service to others?

Why not nominate them for one of the Atlantic Division Awards that they qualify for?

Atlantic Division awards are presented annually to the hams who make us proud to be part of the Amateur Radio Service. Nominations are taken from the ham community. Selection is made by an Awards Committee chaired by the Division Vice Director.

The awards are conferred at the annual Division Convention. Amateurs of any license class may be nominated for awards

Nominations must come from within the Atlantic Division.

The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, shift a nomination made in one award category to another award category, in order to honor a larger number of worthy nominees.

AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Radio Amateur in the Atlantic Division whose record merits recognition for outstanding contributions to the Amateur Radio Service.

(Nominations continued on page 6)

(Nominations Continued from page 5)

He or she is active on the air and in Amateur Radio organizations. The Amateur of the Year is an all-round Amateur, whose activities, attitudes, and achievements may serve as an example to others. Devotion to Amateur Radio is balanced with attention to work responsibilities and family life. The Amateur of the Year exemplifies the "Amateur's Code."

In selecting the award recipient, emphasis is placed on service to others rather than self, diversity of Amateur Radio interests and activities, evidence of continuing self-challenge, and outstanding

contributions to Amateur Radio in the year preceding nomination.

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Radio Amateur(s) in the Atlantic Division whose technical excellence exemplifies "continuation of the Amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," and whose attitude exemplifies the highest dedication to service to others and to science, rather than self.

Particular value will be placed on evidence of continuing contributions to the Amateur Radio Service. Groups of two or more Amateurs may be nominated for a joint award in this category. Technical achievement may be demonstrated through activities such as the following: publications, research and development, creativity in hardware/firmware/software, systems design and implementation, technical instruction, application of advanced technology to public service communications. This award is presented at the discretion of the Awards Committee, not necessarily every year.

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

The nomination period closes March 18, 2006 for this nomination.

AWARD NOMINATION FORM

To display the award nomination form, go to the web site <http://www.atldiv.org/AwardNominationForm.htm>. If you can not get the form via the web, feel free to send a request to:

Tom Abernethy W3TOM
Atlantic Division Vice Director
PO Box 73
Accokeek, MD 20607

.....
(WASHFest Continued from page 1)

hoagies and other fare. Our own Bill Hill, proprietor of Ham Radio Insurance Associates of Canonsburg has again stepped up to supply WASHFest attendees with an endless supply of coffee for the duration of the entire hamfest. Oh, and we'll once again have FREE DOUGHNUTS for all the vendors up until 8AM.

It isn't too late to get your reservations in for tables at the WASHFest. Tables are still only \$10, or \$15 with electricity. General admission is still only \$5 per head, payable at the door.

On behalf of the WASHFest team, we certainly hope to see you on February 26th at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall. We'll keep the coffee pot on for you!

— 73, Steve Lane W3SRL
WASHFest Founder & Co-Chair

.....
(Presidential Words Continued from page 1)

issue of the WASHRag. Thanks again Steve!

Rick Bell KB3IAC after receiving plenty of great ideas, is using his design for the new www.n3sh.org website. While Rick is designing and preparing the site by himself for now, once online he is looking for help in administering it and keeping the content fresh and up to date. Anyone who enjoys working on websites is welcome to contact Rick and let him know of your interest. It is hoped to have the new website debut before the next meeting in February

Finally all of you DX fans will have a chance to work Monsarat later in February due to the efforts of Bill Hill W3WH, and Jack Layton W9UK, Larry Comden K3VX. Its always a little more interesting to make a DX contact when you know the person on the other side of the QSO.

It's going to be a busy year and I hope you are along to enjoy it and make it the best year yet for WASH!

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

DX News Briefs

The 3YØX Dxpediton to Peter I island should be underway by the time this newsletter goes to press. After three years of planning and delays, the team left for King George Island at 1030 Z on



February 1st to board the ship DAP Mares, and sailed that evening. Prior to leaving, they were QRV as XR9A from Punta Arenas). They were QRV during the trip as XR9A/MM. They arrived off-shore of Peter I around 2200 LT on February 5th. Setting up the base should take from 36 - 48 hours, so they planned to be QRV sometime on February 7th. As of 1445 Z on February 6th, they were awaiting the fog to lift so that the helicopter could start transporting the equipment and team ashore.

QSL via N200. Updated information available at www.peterone.com — Condensed from 3YØX

News Releases found at www.peterone.com

ARI Torino members will operate as I1OWG from 10 through 26 February during the XX Olympic Winter Games. All of the contacts will confirmed automatically via the bureau, QSL direct via I1JQJ. — 425 DX News

W4WX and K4QD will be traveling to Ascension Island on February 20th. They plan to be QRV as ZD8WX and ZD8QD until March 2nd. They will be on 160 - 10 Meters, CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK-31. QSL direct to their home calls. More info at www.geocities.com/w4wx1 — W4WX

OH2UA will be QRV as CU2A in the ARRL DX CW Contest. QSL via OH2BH — OPDX

Members of the W2RZS ARC will be QRV as J75RZ during the CQ WPX SSB contest. QSL via W2RZS — OPDX

F6BUM will QRV as TZ3M 10—27 February. QSL via F6CXJ. — F6BUM

All JT amateurs will be celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Great Mongolian State, established by Chinggis Khan in 1206, with the special event prefix JVB800 during 2006. QSL via their home calls (for example, JVB800BV via JT1BV) — NG3K

However, JT1CD claimed in an email on February 6th that JVB800BV is an "illegal operation" — JT1CD

QSL Routes

3C5XA via G3SWH — G3SWH	OY7ET, OY7TW via PA2R — RA3SL
4A7L via WA3HUP — N7DC	R1ANN via RZ3DJ — W2IRT
4X17B via 4Z4TL — WA3FRP	RØK via RZ3EC — W9OL
4Z5KJ via WØMM — WØMM	S9A, S9BB via OH2TA — RA3SL
4Z5J via WØMM — WØMM	SU8BHI via HA3JB — 9K2HN
5B/DJ7ZG via DL7AFS — KZ2I	T18CBT via EA7FTR — W9OL
5U7JB via ON5NT — W9OL	T1ØSP via EA7FTR — W9OL
5Z4LS/P via G3RWF — W2IRT	TZ6CW via K7WP — W2IRT
6Y2Z via K6VNX — K3WI	TZ6LF via KY7M — K3WI
9G5TF via DL6TF — W2IRT	TZ6NS via AA7A — W2IRT
9G5XA via G3SWH — G3SWH	UN9L via LZ1YE — K3WI
9J2BO via G3TEV — W2IRT	V51KC via IZ8EDJ — W9OL
A71EM via EA7FTR — W9OL	V6A via JA7AO — 9K2HN
CW5T via K9VV — WZ8K	V73JY via JA1JQY — RA3SL
DU12V via JA1BRK — K3WI	V8FVV via GØKBO — N7XY
EK6LV via IK2DUW — RA3SL	VK9CG, VK9XG via WØYG — W2IRT
EM1HO via I2PJA	VP2MLA via LA9VDA — RA3SL
EK6TA via DJØMCZ — K8QM	XQ6ET via W8UVZ — W2IRT
FO/DL5XU via DL3APO — AD1C	Y19KT via SP8HKT — W9OL
FR1AN via N5FTR — W2IRT	YL7A via YL2GM — W9OL
HC1AJQ via EA7FTR — W9OL	YN4/H79W via K9AJ — W2IRT
HKØFD via DK8FD — K3WI	YN4MG via WØMM — WØMM
HZ11K via DK7YY — W2IRT	YS1ECB via EA7BO — W2IRT
ISØN via OK1MG — W9OL	ZB2X via OH2KI — W9OL
KH6ZM via IØMMWI — W2IRT	ZL7II via DL5EBE — RA3SL
LU8XW via WD9EWK — K3WI	ZS6CCY via OK1DOT — W2IRT

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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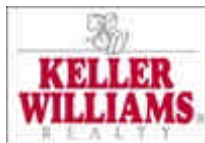
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FCC News

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

Newington, CT, January 26th, 2006— As the window approaches to renew the very first Amateur Radio licenses issued a decade ago through the vanity call sign program, the question on many lips is, "Do I have to pay a vanity call sign fee again when I renew my license?" The answer is, "Definitely yes, if you want to keep your vanity call sign for another 10 years." The FCC has steadfastly maintained from the very start of the vanity call sign program that payment of the vanity call sign regulatory fee would be required for renewal applications as well as for new applications.

"Some commenters believe that the fee for a vanity call sign should be charged on a one-time basis only, and that no fee should be required when the license is renewed," the FCC remarked in its December 23, 1994, *Report and Order* in PR Docket 93-905, "Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules to Implement a Vanity Call Sign System." The Commission continued, "The ARRL believes that a one-time fee is more appropriate because the Commission's additional workload occurs at the time of the initial processing of the vanity call sign."



Under the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, however, "we cannot provide a one-time fee for processing vanity call sign applications," the Commission concluded in 1994.

The FCC reaffirmed that stance in 2002 when it responded to two radio amateurs who had commented on its annual fee schedule proceeding, MD Docket 02-64. Both hams supported the payment of a regulatory fee to cover the initial administrative cost but questioned having to pay the fee upon renewal. The FCC responded that because it continues to incur costs related to vanity call signs even after their issuance or renewal, it believes the regulatory fee at renewal is appropriate.

"Section 9 of the Communications Act, as amended, provides for the recovery of the Commission's costs associated with its enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities," the FCC said in its *Report and Order*. "Every day, Commission staff are engaged in activities involving amateur vanity call signs, such as protecting the assignment of vanity call signs, investigating complaints on the improper or illegal usage of call signs, requests for call signs that are already assigned to someone else, and all related research that is necessary to insure the proper assignment of call signs."

The first batch of vanity call sign renewals is expected to start showing up as early as this March. Part 97 provides that Amateur Radio licensees may apply for renewal only within 90 days of the expiration date of their licenses. Those who wish to retain their current vanity call signs will have to pay the vanity call sign fee, now \$21.90 for the 10-year license term. The fee could change, however, by the time the licenses of the greatest number of Amateur Radio vanity call sign holders come up for renewal this fall.

The ARRL VEC, which handles routine Amateur Radio license renewal applications as a service for League members, notes that it does *not* plan to process Amateur Radio vanity call sign renewal applications. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says that's because the VEC is currently not equipped to handle the regulatory fees that vanity renewals will require.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the years, but it's far lower than the \$70 the FCC first announced in its 1994 *Report and Order*. The fee subsequently was reduced to \$30 for the initial rounds of vanity call sign filers in 1996. Over the 10 years of the program, the fee has varied from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50.

The FCC's Part 97 rules are a bit more vague on the topic. §97.19(b) says, "Each application for a modification of an operator/primary or club station license grant, or the renewal thereof, to show a call sign selected by the vanity call sign system must be filed in accordance with §1.913 of this chapter." Part 1 references filing forms and fee schedules.

All Amateur Radio licensees filing renewal applications, whether or not they hold a vanity call sign, must have an FCC Registration Number and use it on the application. Vanity call sign renewal applications may be filed via the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), and payment may be made online using a credit card. Filing is also possible on hard copy forms.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms.

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

www.djernes.org/washrag

Thanks Again to Shawn **NØPEU** for
providing the site!

"If you see rust on your shaft, your tower is too short"

— George Fremin K5TR

Now in our **ELEVENTH** big year!



WASHfest 2006

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

Sunday, February 26th, 2006

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

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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.n3sh.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

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

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- (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): \$ _____

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Name: _____

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

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

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

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Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US
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Dues subject to change without notice)
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- Name & Call Sign: _____
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Inside This Issue:

- Getting ready for **WASHfest 2006**, now less than a month away?
- N3SH Mobile in the 2 Meter Simplex Contest!
- Another utility abandons BPL!
- 3YØX about to go QRV!
- Nominations now open for the Atlantic Division Awards for 2006!
- Straight Key Century Club?

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



Ready To Rumble!

The K3VX Mobile Machine, ready to hit the road as N3SH/M in the 2006 version of the WASH 2 Meter Contest. How'd he do? Take a gander inside!

Don't forget that your contest logs are due February 8th!

Photo courtesy of & Copyright ©2006 Tippi Comden WA3JPP

The WASHRag

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Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2222



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