



Pa QSO: A Month to Go!

Things have gotten interesting in the last month, as we prepare for the N3SH operations for the 2006 Pennsylvania QSO Party.

There have been some changes since last month's newsletter:

First, the [Armstrong County](#) operation has been relocated, due in part to our difficulty in finding a suitable site. Instead, we will be operating as [N3SH Venango County](#) at Randy N3ZK's family home. Randy will be joined by Kevin N3KFD and Paul KB3KOT. Unfortunately, space limitations prevent other operators from joining the Venango team.

Second, we have relocated the [N3SH Fayette County](#) operation. Rick KB3IAC indicated that he might not be available on the QSO Party weekend, which meant that we would not have access to Heritage Run this year. Fortunately, our friends in the [Uniontown ARC](#) have been kind enough to permit us to use the W3PIE clubhouse for this year's activity. Dan KB3HVN and Ron W3WN went down to W3PIE during their annual Gabfest this year. If you haven't seen the location, they have a nice brick building on quite a bit of space just north of the Uniontown Bypass, off of Route 51. The station is equipped with at least 3 HF operating positions and a host of antennas, so equipment needs are minimal. The W3PIE gang has indicated that we just need to let them know what antennas we're going to need, and they'll try and make sure we have them.

N3SH Fayette will be run as a joint effort with the UARC folks, so we can expect W3PIE club members to drop by, see what we're doing, and help operate. Should be a lot of fun, and it may help spark interest in the future for more activity from Fayette!

At present, we could use a few more operators for Fayette, as we don't know for certain yet who or how many operators from W3PIE are going to join us

[N3SH Allegheny County](#) is undergoing a "split" personality. K3VX, W3WH, and N3XI determined that due to the antenna placement at Frank's QTH, it might be difficult to run 2 or three transmitters simultaneously without causing intermod problems. So the decision was made to keep SSB and V/UHF activity for N3SH Allegheny at Frank's house, and move the CW operation a few miles away to Larry's house. Another operator or two could be used at Frank's home, another two or three at Larry's.

We haven't heard any news from W4ZE about his station's current status, but as far as we know, everything remains on track for [N3SH Washington County](#). We've invited members of WACOM to join us in helping to man the station, as an additional two or three operators will be needed there.

Two new additions to the lineup have also cropped up this month:

First, Frank KB3FZU and Lori KB3GMU have decided to operate as [N3SH Erie County](#), from a family member's farm. Frank indicates that there is at least one other amateur in the family, who's been active in the contest in the past, and they're hoping that he will join them.

Second, many of you know Mike K3AIR, the WPA DXCC Card Checker, from

(N3SH Pa QSO Party Plans Continued on page 5)

Club Picnic Cancelled!

Presidential Words

Summer is nearly over and the Pa QSO party is only a month away. Where did the year go?

I hope by now that everyone has made their plans to help one of the many bonus stations for Pa QSO party. Ron Notarius single handedly salvaged the Fayette County operation by asking the Uniontown ARC if we could use their club station, W3PIE. Not only did they say yes but they could not be happier. It seems that the members are not operating as much from their and the club president hopes this will spark some interest.



At this point there are only Dan, KB3HVN, Dave, N3DFK, and me definitely operating from Fayette County. We surely would like to see a few more [WASH](#) members come down our way. The contest runs from 11:00 AM EDT till 12:00 midnight Saturday, October 14th, and from 12:00 noon till 6:00 PM Sunday, October 15th. As bonus stations we need to be on the air as much as possible during the operating period. There will be plenty of operating opportunities for anyone regardless of experience. Let Ron, W3WN know where you want to operate and he will tell you who to contact to make a schedule.

Randy George, N3ZK is still working very hard raising money for the tower trailer fund. Aside from securing money from his employer, Comcast, he has also single handedly raised around \$500 or \$600 by

(Presidential Words Continued on page 3)

Inside this

Amateur Radio Calendar	2
WASH Club News	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Abandoned Coordination Notice	6
The New KB3FZU/R Shack	7
DX News Briefs	8
FCC News	9
Hamfest Announcements	10

Next Meeting: September 14th, 2006

The next monthly meeting of the [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.](#) will be Thursday, September 14th, at the [Peters Township Library](#), 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics for the night include N3SH / Pa QSO Party planning, the tower trailer, a by-laws change, & the Butler ARA Hamfest, 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:

- ARRL SET October 7 & 8
- Ca QSO Party October 7 & 8
- Pa QSO Party October 14 & 15
- WPRC Meeting October 15
- School Club Roundup 2006 October 16 —20
- BSA JOTA October 21—22
- CQ WW DX SSB October 28 & 29
- ARRL CW Sweepstakes November 4 & 5
- WACOM Hamfest November 5
- ARRL SSB Sweepstakes November 18 & 19

September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Elco ARS Meeting	2 RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net
						W3PIE Gabfest
3 Ellwood City ARA Mtng OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	4 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	5 Butler Co ARA Meeting Skyview RS Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	6 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	7 WACOM Meeting RA Erie Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	8	9 NHARC Elmer Net NHARC/Breezeshooters VE Foothills ARC Breakfast 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast
10 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	11 Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	12 Foothills ARC Mtng Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Punxsatawney Area ARC Mtg WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	13 North Hills ARC Meeting Butler Co PSG Meeting Laurel Highlands VHFS Mtng Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	14 WASH Meeting Horseshoe ARC Meeting Beaver Valley ARA Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Uniontown ARC Net	15 Quad Co ARC Meeting	16 NHARC Elmer Net
Butler Co ARA Hamfest						
17 Elk Co ARC Meeting Uniontown ARC VE Test OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	18 Monessen ARC Meeting Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	19 Steel City ARC Mtng S H B P & M Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Chestnut Ridge ARC Meeting WACOM Net	20 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SKYWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	21 Allegheny County SKYWarn Class Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net	22	23 NHARC Elmer Net
24 OCWA Pittsburgh Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net	25 Breezeshooters Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple 'A' ARC Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	26 Mercer Co ARA Meeting WACOM Net North Hills ARC Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap 'n' Shop Net	27 Ft. Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	28 WACOM Board of Directors Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	29	30 WASH Breakfast NHARC Elmer Net
The Great Race						

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 Randy George N3ZK
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 N3ZK
Ron Notarius W3WN
Pa QSO Party SES Coordinator Ron Notarius W3WN

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) 443.650 MHz (+)
Canonsburg KB3FZU/R 28.276 MHz
St. Johns, VI NP2SH/B

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 October 19th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, October 19th, 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, January 18th, 2007
 (tentative) Thursday, April 19th, 2007
 Thursday, July 19th, 2007
 Thursday, October 18th, 2007

The last weekend before Labor Day weekend, the end of the last full month of summer, August 26th was also the latest gathering of the awake and hungry, i.e. the **WASH Breakfast Gang** at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's troops included K3VX, K3HCR, W3WVN, N3HKQ & Peg, WB4GCS, and in a rare appearance, W3SRL (we know you're up to your eyeballs in alligators Steve, but your presence is missed!) Topics of the morning included Pa QSO Party plans, moving playhouses, window access for coax, computer memory, gin poles, injuries, bus trips, tube mobiles, the Pack Rats, shacks, storage, kw mobiles, '48 Jeep issues, "environmentally friendly," LOX Safety Officers, Zirconia Fires, and a lot more.

There's always plenty of room at the table (and if there isn't, we just drag over another one!), and the coffee is hot and plentiful. So why not stop by and join us this month? The next club breakfast will be on Saturday, September 31st, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road / Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. See you there!

Web Sites: In case you've missed the news, the new club web site at www.n3sh.org is now up and operational, thanks in no small part to Randy N3ZK. (Rick KB3IAC has just been so busy with work this year that he's simply had no time to work on the site, so Randy has taken over it's administration). There's a whole host of news and information about the club and club activities and more — lots more. Plus a count-down clock for the Pa QSO Party, a thermometer for the tower fund, indicators for the club-affiliated repeaters... don't take our word for it, you have got to go and see it.

Not only that, but Randy has also assumed responsibility for the companion site for this newsletter, www.washrag.info, for which Ye Editor gratefully thanks him (Ye Editor is STILL busy unpacking... the good news is that the vertical is up, the bad news? Still no coax!). Thanks to Randy, the site now stores all back copies of the **WASHRag** (and **SHARC Mariners**) that Ye Editor has, er, edited. [If anyone still has a copy of the **SHARC Mariner** edited beforehand, please let us know so that we can scan them and add them to the archive at some point]

We'd also like to especially thank Glen KE7FD who made the arrangements for the www.washrag.info site with his company, The Internet Guild, aka 2EzHosting. (If you're wondering why the promo for that company is on the web site... now you know!)

The new sites have a lot of additional capabilities that our old site never dreamed of... so more changes are to come! Stay tuned!

Volunteers Needed for The Great Race: "W3KK is seeking volunteers for the Great Race (<http://www.rungreatrace.com/>) Sept. 24th. Volunteers will be needed from approx. 7:30 to 10:30 and should bring HTs. Please contact Konrad at w3kk@connecttime.net if you would like to volunteer or if you have questions." — Terry Mealy KB3NSG

Contest Rules: Complete rules for the Pa QSO Party are now on the Nittany ARC web site at www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html; we plan to print them in next month's newsletter so that you'll have them handy. Also coming up before you know it is our Seventh Annual 2 Meter Simplex Contest! Expect to see those rules pop up in November!

WASHNet 2006 NCS Schedule

09/03	Dave N3DFK	11/12	Bill W3WH
09/10	Bill W3WH	11/19	Kevin N3HKQ
09/17	Kevin N3HKQ	11/26	Harold K3HCR
09/24	Harold K3HCR	12/03	Carol KB3GMN or Richey N3SBF
10/01	Carol KB3GMN or Richey N3SBF	12/10	Michael KB3HFP
10/08	Michael KB3HFP	12/17	Hank KB3FNM
10/15	Hank KB3FNM	12/24	Paul NØVLR
10/22	Paul NØVLR	12/31	Frank KB3FZU
10/29	Frank KB3FZU	Alternates	— Dave N3IDH
11/05	Dave N3DFK		— Ron WN3VAW

Only Good Stuff!



Georgette and Dan KB3HVN showing off their wares at their part of the club tables at the Butler Hamfest.

If you've ordered a shirt from OGS, you can thank Georgette for the fine work!

Photo courtesy of & © Copy-right 2006 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

"I'm a nice guy!" — Steve Lane W3SRL

(Presidential Words Continued from page 1)

making wooden callsigns or names and selling at hamfests. I applaud his drive and enthusiasm but it is unfair for the club to leave the job solely to him. I urge club members to pitch in and help however they can. We will discuss other fundraising ideas at the club meeting so please chime in.

Speaking of Randy, he has shown quite a talent in creating the new club websites. If you have not yet seen them, go to <http://www.n3sh.org> and <http://www.washrag.info> and check it out. There are some glitches like an incomplete membership roster so let us know if you see some problems, anything that is missing, or ideas to add. Anyone can contribute content for the website by sending it to content@n3sh.org. Just send along some explanation of what it is you are sending.

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

The WASH Club picnic for this year has been cancelled.

Only a small number of people had committed to being at the picnic this year, and only a few of them indicated that they were able to bring a covered dish.

Traditionally, the club picnic was held in August. Scheduling conflicts this year pushed it into September, with several date changes going back and forth. That combined with the busier weekend schedules that most of us have in the Fall doomed it for this year.

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2006 Today! Membership Application on Page 9!

Minutes, August 10th Meeting

Kevin Smith N3HKQ, President, **WASH**

Moment of silence for recently departed silent keys.

Introductions

Committee Reports

Treasurer – Mark Stabryla, N3RDV – Read and Accepted

Secretary – Paul Lusardi, NØVLR – not present so N3HKQ will take minutes.

Tower Trailer committee report - Randy N3ZK: Bill Hill, W3WH made a motion that was seconded by Jim Sanford, WB4GCS to proceed to purchase the Force 12 telescoping tower. This motion assumes a contribution from the club funds around \$600 for a total purchase and shipped price of around \$2,200. The motion was passed. *(In the weeks after the meeting, an updated quote was received and the total shipped price to purchase a Force 12 model LPT -834 and related accessories, came to \$2,930. While this was only an increase of \$55 from the original quote, it was considerably higher than the figure discussed in the motion. President Smith, after consulting other club officers decided not to act on the motion.)*

Fundraising for the tower trailer project was also discussed and Dan McCann, KB3HVN showed an example of pins he has ordered from a source he deals with. It was agreed that Dan McCann would develop a proposal for pin design and get a quote from his source for the club to consider.

VE – Jacque, N3ZEL – The next VEC session October 19, 2006 at 6:30 PM at the Peter's Township Library.

QSL manager – Ed, N3ZNI – A box of cards is ready to ship to the bureau.

Website – Kevin Smith, N3HKQ and Randy George, N3ZK are ready to discuss with Rick Bell, KB3IAC having Randy begin updating the website.

Repeaters, A PRS Digipeater, & NP2SH beacon – Pete, N3RNX/Steve, W3SRL/Frank, KB3FZU – Frank Bobro, KB3FZU submitted an electric bill totaling \$37.74. He also announced that the Scenery Hill site is back in operation. Frank also acknowledged the carpentry skills of Randy George, N3ZK saying that two more sides of the KB3FZU repeater shack have been either renovated or replaced.

Club FM Net – Kevin, N3HKQ – Net Manager, N3HKQ noted that participation in the Sunday evening net is very light and that some scheduled NCS's have not shown up to conduct the net.

Public Service – Mark, N3RDV/Dave, N3IDH

Mark Stabryla, N3RDV announce that Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL has volunteered to be the Washington County liaison to the Western PA District Emergency Coordinator. She will occasionally conduct the Sunday evening net on the 146.09 repeater. Thank you Jacque.

Contests – Ted, W4ZE is well under way in repairing his station after it was struck by lightning a second time. His station should be ready for the Pa QSO party.

Activities – Field Day – Larry Comden, K3VX made a suggestion to reserved the Mingo Creek Astronomy Observatory area for the 2007 Field Day. It was suggested by Larry McHenry, one of the Astronomy Club officers that they would welcome having us use their site. The suggestion was made into a motion that was seconded by Jim Sanford, WB4GCS and it carried by a vote of the membership.

Quartermaster – Harold, K3HCR – nothing to report.

Newsletter & PA QSO Party Bonus Station Status: Ron, W3WN requests that at least 2 stations be on the air at all times the Pa QSO party is operating.

Dan McCann, KB3HVN will provide costs for golf shirts and other Pa QSO Party Bonus Station paraphernalia at the next meeting. The operating stations currently look to be N3ZNI/K3LGM – mobile; N3XI – Allegheny County SSB VHF and HF; K3VX/W3WH – Allegheny County CW, W4ZE – Washington County, PSK31, Rtty, SSB, CW; KB3FZU et. al – Fayette County; N3ZK – Venango County.

Ways and Means – Carol, KB3GMN: 50/50 conducted as usual. The Christmas party will not be held at the Beach House due to a change in Management. Carol will keep looking for another site.

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 8)

WASH Spotlight: Plaques



Randy N3ZK hard at work earning a few more shekels towards the Tower Fund at the Butler Co ARA Hamfest. Lending him a hand were Kevin N3HKQ, Dan KB3HVN & Georgette, and Ron W3WN — but the hard part was all his. By the way, check out the new club web site for more information on ordering your own wooden call letter plaque right on-line! Go to <http://www.n3sh.org/> for more details!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2006 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron WN3VAW at w3wn@arrl.net

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	NØVLR	W3LE	KA3NMG	WASH /MM	Silent
K3EED	NØWPV	W3RJM	KA3TWI	KA3UPY	Keys
(Cindy)	N2QIV	W3RWS	KB3DCO	WASH GA	
K3HCR	N3AWF	W3SRL	KB3EPI	K3OL	K3EED
K3LGM	N3CZZ	W3VFA	KB3GUZ	KB3IJX	(George)
K3SGT	N3DFK	W3WH	KB3IAC	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3VX	N3HKQ	W3WN	KB3IRQ	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3WJL	N3IDH	W4ZE	KB3IVW	WASH NY	N3FZ
KB3FNM	N3KFD	W8LEV	KB3LIX	KE3XB	N3KEH
KB3FZU	N3QMV	WA3JPP	KE3RN	N3YPB	N3OBD
KB3GMN	N3OVO	WA3RVD	NØPEU	WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3GMP	N3RDV	WA3WMB	N3BSQ	N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3GMU	N3RHT	WA3YFQ	N3PN	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3HVN	N3SBF	WB4GCS	N3RNX	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3KOT	N3UE	WO3Z	N3TBK	WASH VI	
KB3MQC	N3XI		N3VEH	NP2JF	
KB3MRT	N3ZEL		N3ZCG		
KB3NAF	N3ZK	2005	W3GEL		
KB3NSG	N3ZNI	K3JDS	W3HND		
KB3NVL		K3PCF	W3JAF		
KB3NVM					
KC4WTT					
KE7FD					

Through September 1st, 2006

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Pa QSO 2006: A Month To Go!

Continued from Page 1

our hamfest and from the last few Dayton trips. Mike has finally completed law school (insert your favorite lawyer joke here... he's not only heard them all but tells new ones!) and has more time for operating, and has agreed to run his station as **N3SH Butler County** this year. (Yes, he's going to join the club!). Mike will need two or three more operators, and is trying to recruit some help from his friends in the Saxonburg area.

(We haven't forgotten about **N3SH Clarion County** or **N3SH Mobile**... just no changes or news have cropped up in the last month!)

A few other housekeeping matters need to be addressed:

1. Operators: We only need a small number of additional operators to ensure that our Primary stations will be QRV at all times; not more than a dozen total, probably less. We know that Fayette will get a some operators from the W3PIE gang, and we're expecting a few operators to drop by the Allegheny and Washington stations from the WACOM gang and possibly other area clubs, but we don't want to count on anything until it actually happens. If you can't commit for the whole weekend – that's fine! Even if you only have a few hours on Saturday or Sunday – or have never operated a contest and aren't sure – or you want to operate from one team for awhile and another for another while – that's fine! We can work it out, but we have to start hearing from you so that there are no surprises! And remember, the list at the end of this article is not cast in stone, so we will be flexible enough to accommodate changes. In short: If you're sitting on the fence, now is the time to pick a team!
2. We need to decide on what software package or packages will be used. There are some nice ones available; some are free, some cost, and some are well suited to single transmitter stations but not multi-transmitter ones. A decision on this needs to be made by the end of the month so that operators who wish to practice on a new package have time to do so.
3. Then there's the small but not insignificant issues of food and lodging. If you are on what of the teams, or planning to join one of them, please talk to your Team Captain about food issues. Don't assume that you can walk in and plenty will be there... it would be nice, and it might happen that way, but don't assume it. And remember that not everyone will be able to just pick up the phone and order a few pizzas! Each team needs to make certain that there'll be plenty of beverages and snacks available, both for those operating and those taking a break, and major meal planning will be needed (especially at dinner time on Saturday and lunch time on Sunday) to avoid having all transmitters QRT while everyone is eating! As far as lodging, most of the team members will either be operating from home (or a family member's home), be staying somewhere as a guest, or be within a short travel distance from their own home. Fayette will be one big exception to this (W3PIE is about a 45 minute drive from most of the South Hills), although we may have a trailer courtesy of one of the W3PIE members to use for those staying overnight. So: if you are planning to operate from Fayette, or will be traveling a distance to one of the other sites, please plan your travel time so that you can either arrive home during the overnight break with plenty of time to sleep and return, or make other arrangements.
4. We need to see how we can have the various stations communicate with each other. Some sites have Internet access, some don't. And as spread out as we are, trying to find a common repeater for all stations will be difficult if not impossible. So some thought has to be given to this – do we need it, and if so, how do we accomplish it? (Yes, the packet network would be perfect, at least for everyone except the Mobile gang – do we have the equipment and the time to get it all working?)
5. As has been discussed, Dan KB3HVN has come up with a shirt design from the N3SH operators. It will be made available to all. Dan has also come up with a design for commemorative pin (think of the Field Day pins) for both operators and for those contacting N3SH – and he will be able to personalize them. Funds generated from the sales of these items will go towards the Tower Trailer fund.
6. And – in addition to a QSL card (QSL N3SH via N3ZNI, as always), we will offer a certificate to those contacting multiple N3SH locations for a nominal cost to cover printing and postage.
7. And finally, don't forget to HAVE FUN during the event. You don't have to be a big-time contester to jump in and have a ball. Remember that even with all of the N3SH stations that will be QRV, we will be sought after, so, contacts won't be hard to come by! So plan on sitting back and having a blast in the best state QSO party in the country!

— 73, Ron Notarius W3WN, N3SH Special Event Station Coordinator

N3SH Team Members as of September 1 (subject to change)

See http://www.n3sh.org/featured_events.htm for latest changes and developments

N3SH Allegheny – SSB & VHF Station
Frank Sanns N3XI, Captain
Terry Mealy KB3NSG
Ron Telek W3LE (& Son)
Ron Notarius W3WN

N3SH Allegheny – CW Station
Larry Comden K3VX, Captain
Bill Hill W3WH

N3SH Washington
Ted Huf W4ZE, Captain
Dave Demotte N3IDH
Jim Tommasin WO3Z

N3SH Fayette
Dan McCann KB3HVN, Captain
Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Dave Kitzinger N3DFK
(*) Paul Lusardi NØVLR
(*) Anthony Lusardi KB3NVM
(*) Michael Lusardin KB3NVL
Bert Sesler WA3WAW (tentative)

N3SH Clarion
Carol Danko KB3GMN, Captain
Rich Danko N3SBF

N3SH Butler
Mike Lazaroff K3AIR, Captain

N3SH Erie
Frank Bobro KB3FZU, Captain
Lori Bobro KB3GMU

N3SH Venango
Randy George N3ZK, Captain
Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Paul Rupnik KB3KOT

N3SH Mobile
Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI, Captain
Dave Wagner K3LGM

(*) pending availability due to possible prior commitment

The Wonderous World of Zoning:

Ron K3MI will be QRV from his new home in Perryopolis, Fayette Co., in the Pa QSO Party this year.

He mentioned in passing at the Butler Co ARA Hamfest that he had trouble getting his 45 foot tower approved. Seems that he lives pretty close to a Fire Station, and the Powers That Be were so afraid of any potential interference (despite all arguments to the contrary) to the Station that they declined to approve his request for a variance for a tower that size.

So instead, he's put up a 32 foot tower, which is the maximum height he is allowed without requesting a variance!

Blue Knob is Back!

Jeff Blake KB3FML, President, Blue Knob Repeater Association

The BKRA has completed some of the upgrades to the Blue Knob 147.150 KB3KWD Repeater. Echolink has been added to this machine and a VOIP link has been created to the N8YIB repeater link system which covers PA, MD, VA, and WV. When this link is active, you will hear an ID indicating you are listening to the OUTBACK Repeater Link system.

The echolink connection can be found by looking up KB3FML-R on the Echolink area 3 listing. The BKRA's NU3T 440 machine is also on line via echolink by looking up the KR3ORY-R on the area 3 list as well. This repeater has echotime link running and has additional features including weather alert s tatements from the NWS. "Kate" our lovely echotime voice will announce the type of alert and then instruct you to tune to NOAAweather radio 162.425 for more information. You can look at a list of short cuts and commands for the NU3T machine at www.kr3ory.info. Both repeaters will allow up to 4 simultaneous connections without timeout, so remote listening from your PC is available. From the RF side, the BKRA machines require a PL of 167.9. If you are accessing from one of the outback repeaters (www.n8yib.com) you use PL 123.0 This link is up for a trial run. If you have any comments or questions you can email BKRA@hotmail.com

The Blue Knob repeater also has emergency battery backup power. If the system is running on EP, you will here "pip" tones every 10-15 seconds during repeater activity. During EP, the repeater output reduces from 94 watts to 25 watts. The transfer is automatic and seamless to the end user for the most part. If someone notices EP is on, please contact KB3FML - Jeff Blake 814-946-0538, Carm Pecca, WO3T, or David Love, NU3T 696-7929.

Finally, we still have some programming and schedule sets to do to the controller at BK to finalize it and make it "quiet" Morse only ID duirng the evening and night hours.

WPRC Public Notice of Abandoned Coordinations

Joe McElhaney KR3P

The Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council is issuing public notice for the following systems which have been abandoned by the current trustee and for which de-coordination has been processed by WPRC.

Anyone who has a legitimate claim for any of these coordinations is asked to submit a WRITTEN statement via USPS mail to the WPRC address ONLY (the one in Wexford, PA) detailing your claim to the coordination. Include the circumstances surrounding how you became responsible for the coordination from the previous trustee listed, and include copied of any supporting documentation. This claim MUST be postmarked by October 1st, 2006.

If more than one claim is received, they will be reviewed and the individual having the strongest claim will be granted the coordination. Please include the WPRC coordination number (first column) as well as the repeater output and location, as well as your callsign and complete contact information.

Systems without claims will be purged from the database.

Thank you,

Joseph A. McElhaney, WPA Frequency Coordinator

WPRC #	OUTPUT	LOCATION	CALL	TRUSTEE	LAST UPDATE
C02-051	147.375	Erie	WB3DW	K3ED	12/05/1988
C02-116	224.2	Carnegie	WB3HDI	WB3HDI	10/19/1987
C02-123	224.4	Lock Haven	K3QFW	K3QFW	12/14/1988
C02-119	224.56	Freedom	W3IXR	W3IXR	02/01/1995
C02-133	224.7	Pgh / Wilkensburg	W3DHL	N3AJW	10/10/1989
C02-120	224.9	Indiana	W3MMY	W3MMY	04/28/1987
C02-118	224.92	Erie	WB2GZM	WB2GZM	02/16/1989
C02-192	442.225	Pgh / Oakland	N3BEZ	N3BEZ	08/19/1991
C98-003	443.4	Cranberry Twp	K3LL	K3LL	12/17/1997
C02-171	443.6	Monongahela	KA3TRT	KA3TRT	08/19/1991
C02-159	444.625	Farmington	KA3NEW	KA3NEW	01/22/1996

Washington, PA Labor Day Run-Walk

all photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2006 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



"The pictures of me are when I started the timer after hearing the beginning of each race.

All hams who participated are pictured at Burger King after the race; the usual crowd of suspects."

KB3FZU/R Shack Repair

Frank Bobro KB3FZU

On Saturday, August 18th, 2006 Randy, N3ZK, Brian, KB3IFR, and I went to the 443.650 repeater shack with the intention of re-facing the left side and front exterior walls. Randy and I had done the right side last fall and I expected the job to take about 4 hours as Randy has all of the right tools to make a job like this go well. We started working at 3 PM. In a short amount of time we had the left face removed and replaced. Lori, KB3GMU, decided that the job would go quicker if we had pre-painted lumber, so while the T-11 siding was laying in storage she painted it! That helped tremendously.

Cue Mother Nature with the rain; a perfect time to break for dinner. When we returned, it was still threatening but we pressed on and removed the front of the shack. A cell phone rings and Brian needs to leave to attend to a problem. Randy removes the front and we notice that it is rotting about one foot up from the bottom. I decided that the best course of action was to completely rebuild the front wall. Randy told me that the door had seen better days ☺ and it would be much easier just to replace it. We called the local home improvement mega store and arranged to have a door waiting for pick up, as it was now nearing closing time (9 PM).

Randy stayed at the shack and continued demolition as I made the drive to pick up the materials. It was about this time that I realized we were going to be late. I called my newly licensed brother, Dave, KB3NCD, and had him drive to the shack to lend an extra pair of hands. He and Brian were on site when I returned, and Randy had made short work of the demolition. Randy also noticed that the front part of the floor was beginning to rot and it would need to be replaced.

We cut out all of the rot and began the re-assembly process. With all of the help and some light that Randy and Brian provided, we were able to rebuild the front wall. We finished the job at 1 A M, just as it started to sprinkle. Mr. Murphy was definitely present on this job and the square time rule also applied.

I would like to thank Randy (and especially Mrs. Randy), Brian for staying with this project until it was done, and Dave for walking into this cold and staying until we had it under control.



Before



Left Wall Repair



Front Removal Underway



No Front of Shack!



All Done! The "New" KB3FZU/R Home!

Photos Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2006 Frank Bobro KB3FZU

The New Shack

John Oden KCØQEH courtesy of www.eham.net

I will never forget the first day with the new Technician license.

With gleeful anticipation, I proceeded to the two-story shed out back. I picked out the perfect spot just above the ladder in the upper floor; this in an effort to keep the cables as short as possible. My genius was to put a table under the ladder with a chair on top and use the upper floor for the ham desk.

This worked great until winter came to Minnesota. I built an insulated walled-in platform on top of the table with a door. I built a wall across the upper floor that stretched to the ceiling.

I added electrical outlets and an electric heater. I was in my glory while I figured out how to get a 2nd hand computer to control the FT-847 and the Yaesu 5500 rotators.

I must have climbed the ladder 1000 times in an effort to get the long yagi's and 2.4 GHz dish pointed in the right direction.

On January 2nd 2004 I made my first contact on AO-40. Then I heard it; the scratching sound in the ceiling of my newly insulated shed.

In the middle of my first Satellite QSO a Giant Squirrel dropped right into my lap!

I immediately stood up in a space that was too small to stand straight up. As my head crashed thru the sheet rock every nut the squire had squirreled away for the last three months rained down on my feet.

Realizing this squirrel was as big as a cat and not happy, I decided it was time to be somewhere else.

In my haste to leave the area I slipped on the nuts and smashed the wooden chair I had been sitting on with all my 280 lbs of self.

I was still able to scoot through the door that I had to kneel down to get in

to faster than any other man alive.

My foot missed the 5-gallon bucket I was using for a step. I landed flat on my back on the floor. The Giant Squirrel ran across my chest and burst through the heavy insulated shed door held shut with a bungee cord.

It was then I realized 3 things:

1. I was still wearing my headphones.
2. I still have a QSO in progress.
3. I just got my butt kicked by a squirrel.

I picked myself up off the floor and began to take steps to keep the Giant Squirrel out of my shack.

I cut pieces of 3/4 inch plywood to board up the openings under the over hang of the roof where the monster left footprints in the snow. I came home from work the next day to discover that a bowling ball sized hole had been chewed through the plywood. When I shined my flashlight into the hole to survey the damage I saw two big yellow eyes staring back at me!

Determined to get rid of this Monster, I devised a plan to get the Giant Squirrel out from the roof of my heated and well insulated shack. "Here Fluffy" I called, to my wife's Persian cat, "Daddy's got a job for you!" They are both the same size I figured it would be a fair fight. So I stuck Fluffy The Cat into the hole to chase out the Giant Squirrel...

I had never heard such a racket in all my 37 years.

I learned 3 new things that day:

1. A Male Cat can scream like a woman.
2. A Giant Squirrel can roar like Donald Duck with his tail on fire.
3. A cat walks funny when he is missing an eye and part of his ear.

Here kitty kitty kitty...

Has Cycle 24 Started?

Dr. Tony Phillips science@nasa.gov Courtesy of NASA

On July 31st, a tiny sunspot was born. It popped up from the sun's interior, floated around a bit, and vanished again in a few hours. On the sun this sort of thing happens all the time and, ordinarily, it wouldn't be worth mentioning. But this sunspot was special: It was backward.

"We've been waiting for this," says David Hathaway, a solar physicist at the Marshall Space Flight in Huntsville, Alabama. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

Sunspots are planet-sized magnets created by the sun's inner magnetic dynamo. Like all magnets in the Universe, sunspots have north (N) and south (S) magnetic poles. The sunspot of July 31st popped up at solar longitude 65° W, latitude 13° S. Sunspots in that area are normally oriented N-S. The newcomer, however, was S-N, opposite the norm.

This tiny spot of backwardness matters because of what it might foretell: A really big solar cycle. Solar activity rises and falls in 11-year cycles, swinging back and forth between times of quiet and storminess. Right now the sun is quiet. "We're near the end of Solar Cycle 23, which peaked way back in 2001," explains Hathaway. The next cycle, Solar Cycle 24, should begin "any time now," returning the sun to a stormy state.

Satellite operators and NASA mission planners are bracing for this next solar cycle because it is expected to be exceptionally stormy, perhaps the stormiest in decades. Sunspots and solar flares will return in abundance, producing bright auroras on Earth and dangerous proton storms in space.

"Maybe it already did—on July 31st," says Hathaway. The first spot of a new solar cycle is always backwards. Solar physicists have long known that sunspot magnetic fields reverse polarity from cycle to cycle. N-S becomes S-N and vice versa. "The backward sunspot may be the first sunspot of Cycle 24."

First, the sunspot lasted only three hours. Typically, sunspots last days, weeks or even months. Three hours is fleeting in the extreme. "It came and went so fast, it was not given an official sunspot number," says Hathaway. The astronomers who number sunspots didn't think it worthy!

Second, the latitude of the spot is suspicious. New-cycle sunspots almost always pop up at mid-latitudes, around 30° N or 30° S. The backward sunspot popped up at 13° S. "That's strange."

These odd-isms stop Hathaway short of declaring the onset of a new solar cycle. "But it looks promising," he says.

Even if Cycle 24 has truly begun, "don't expect any great storms right away." Solar cycles last 11 years and take time to build up to fever pitch. For a while, perhaps one or two years, Cycle 23 and Cycle 24 will actually share the sun, making it a hodgepodge of backward and forward spots. Eventually, Cycle 24 will take over completely; then the fireworks will really begin.

Meanwhile, Hathaway plans to keep an eye out for more backward sunspots.

You Might Be Addicted to Ham Radio IF:

"...your wife puts something on and asks 'Does this make me look too fat?' and you reply with: 'Honey you have an excellent front to back ratio with appreciable forward gain on the front lobes.'"

— Charles W. Bushell KC8VWM

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

The club picnic has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 24, 2006 at the Sanford's home in 84, PA.

President – Kevin, N3HKQ: An update on the proposal to host the 2007 AMSAT symposium in Pittsburgh was provided. A previous proposal and check list of responsibilities for the 2004 Arlington VA symposium was circulated.

AAAP 2006 star party special event station on July 22 was a success and August 26, 2006 to again be conducted by K3VX, N3ZK, and N3HKQ. All others are welcome.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the order: Thanks to Dan McCann, KB3HVN for giving a club golf shirt to Kelly the battery man who provides our batteries for Field Day operations.

DX News Briefs



The second most soft-after DXCC entity in the world, **VU7 Laccadive Islands** will be activated 15–25 January 2007.

NIAR has announced that they will be operating as **VU7RG** in honor of the late Prime Minister of India, VU2RG(SK). The operation will take place from multiple locations. NIAR expects 100 amateurs (70 DX and 30 from India) to operate the various stations. More details are expected soon, see the NIAR web site at <http://www.niar.org> for the latest info — VU2MYH & NIAR

Veteran DX'er Martti Lane OH2BH will be active as **4O3B** from Montenegro September 16-18, including activity in the Scandinavian Activity Contest. He will be on a variety of bands. QSL via OH2BH — OH2BN

As of newsletter deadline, the ITU has yet to assign a new prefix to Montenegro. Various news sources online indicate that the ITU is negotiating with Serbia and Montenegro to transfer one of the seven prefix blocks currently assigned to Serbia (nee Yugoslavia) to Montenegro; a new block will be assigned only if those negotiations fail. Until then, amateurs in Montenegro continue to operate using calls using the old prefix blocks.

2005 operations by **9QØAR** continue to be rejected by the DXCC desk. "The 9QØAR license expired in March 2005, and since that time there has been no legal activity at all from Congo-Kinshasa. Gus SM5DIC worked a few contacts the club station after March 2005 by mistake. When he came back from a vacation in Sweden he was not informed that the license had expired. Gus is still in Congo-Kinshasa (together with ON5NT and a couple of more hams working for UN), and has been working on the licensing problem for more than a year now without luck so far." —SM5DQC

Look for DL5AUA to be QRV as **9H3JC** from the Island of Gozo (EU-023) 23 October thru 2 November. QSL via DL5AUA — OPDX 775

ZL4HU is currently QRV as **E51KH** (new prefix!) from Rarotonga (OC-013) in the South Cooks thru 22 September. Look for him primarily on 20 meters SSB, running 60 watts into a dipole! — OPDX 775

DJ2PJ will be QRV as **OHØJWH** from Eckeroe, Aland Islands (EU-002) 26 September thru 8 October. He plans to focus on the low bands, especially 160 meters, primarily CW and digital modes. QSL via DJ2PJ — NG3K

HB9QQ is currently visiting Namibia and is QRV as **V5/HB9QQ** thru 30 September. Look for him primarily on 30, 17, and 12 meters. QSL via HB9QQ — HB9PL, 425 DX 801

QSL Routes

3D2AV via 6K2AVL — W2IRT	LU1ZS via LU4DXU — WC6DX
4KR6ØS via 4J5A — K3WI	OX3LX via OZ1PIF — DE1DXX
5B/KIØBP via UA6MF — KE3D	R1ANN via RZ3DJ — K3WI
5WØJB via KT8X — ZL1TM	R75ØFM via RA2FM — DE1DXX
5X1RI via WD4ELG — W2IRT	SØ1R via EA5RM — W9OL
6W/RW3TN via RW3TN — KE3D	S92RI via CT1APE — KK6T
8P9JA via W4PA — W2IRT	ST2KSS via ST2M — ST2M
9G5A via UY5ZZ — DE1DXX	T3ØAV via 6K2AVL — W2IRT
9MØ/9M2TO via JAØDMV — JJ1BDX	T8ØX via DJ2EH — W2AY
9M4SEB via M5AAV — M5AAV	TT8M via PA7FM — W9OL
C21DL via DJ2EH — W2AY	TZ6M via PA7FM — W9OL
C56W via DK2WV — WA3FRP	V31BH via OH2BH — K5WW
C6AYM via K9GY — K3WI	V31LZ via LZ3RZ — K9DUR
C6DX via W8GEX — DE1DXX	V44KJ via WB2TSL — WA3FRP
C91TK via NØ7R — W2IRT	V7/N4XP via N4XP — KE3D
CG2AWR via VE2AWR — W2IRT	V19NI via VK4FW — W2IRT
CO8LY via EA7ADH — K3WI	VP8DIZ via G7KMZ — DE1DXX
CU2A via OH2BH — K5WW	VU4AN/VU3JLW via F5CWU — W9OL
DRØ6SOCCER via DH2ES — TA3J	VU4AN/VU3OHA via OH2BN — KU4BP
H4ØHL via HL1XP — W2IRT	XU7TAS via ON7PP — W2IRT
H44HL via HL1XP — W2IRT	YE6P via K8SIX — N7XY
HS7CDI via 7L2MFS — K14RU	Y19LZ via LZ1CNN — W2AY
HZ1NH via EA7FTR — W2IRT	YJØADX via DL9NDS — W9OL
J48SI via SV1RK — SV1DPI	YXØA via KU9C — KU9C
J5UAP via HA3AUI — W2IRT	YXØLIX via KU9C — KU9C
LU1ZR via LU4DXU — WC6DX	ZF2JO via W4YCH — 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

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FCC News

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

Newington, CT, September 11th, 2006 — The FCC has ordered an Indiana commercial and Amateur Radio license holder, Timothy M. Doty, WB9MCD, of W Terre Haute, and a Land Mobile Service (LMS) company in which he's a principal to show cause why their respective licenses should not be revoked. In an *Order to Show Cause* released August 30, the FCC said it received information last year suggesting that Commercial Radio Service Inc (CRS) "may not have properly disclosed information" about Doty's felony convictions in applications it filed with the Commission.

"The character of the applicant is among those factors that the Commission considers in its review of applications to determine whether the applicant has the requisite qualifications to be a Commission licensee," the FCC said in the show cause order. Felony convictions "raise potential questions regarding a licensee's qualifications," the FCC said. "Similarly, because of the extent of his ownership and control of CRS, Mr Doty's felony convictions also raise serious questions about the character qualifications of CRS to be and remain a Commission licensee."



The FCC said CRS's response to a letter of inquiry it had sent last May determined that Doty has been a director and 50 percent shareholder of CRS, and, until last May, a CRS officer. CRS holds licenses for four Private LMS stations and one Commercial LMS station. Doty holds a General Radiotelephone Operator license in addition to his ham ticket. All of the licenses are in jeopardy.

The Commission said publicly available records show that Doty was convicted in federal court of a felony that involved manufacture and possession of unauthorized satellite TV descrambling devices. He received three years' probation and a \$2000 fine in that case, the FCC said in the *Order*. In addition, the FCC said, publicly available records indicated Doty was found guilty in state court on a felony count of possessing a controlled substance. For that conviction, he was sentenced to 18 months' incarceration with all but 30 days suspended, the FCC said in the *Order*.

Subsequent to his federal and state felony convictions, the FCC asserts, CRS failed to reveal that the applicant or any party directly or indirectly controlling the applicant had ever been convicted of a felony in state or federal court.

The FCC said misrepresentation and lack of candor "raise immediate concerns as to whether a licensee will be truthful in future dealings with the Commission." CRS, the FCC maintained, should have revealed Doty's felony convictions in its Commission filings. "The Commission may revoke the license of a licensee who deliberately makes misrepresentations or lacks candor in dealing with the agency because he or she lacks the basic character qualifications to hold the license," the FCC said.

Assuming that CRS and Doty respond to the show cause order within 30 days of its release, the Commission indicated it would schedule a hearing to determine whether Doty's felony convictions affect his and CRS's qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee and to determine whether CRS made misrepresentations and/or lacked candor in its dealings with the FCC.

"CRS's failure to disclose the felony convictions of one of its principals raises a substantial and material question of fact as to whether CRS made false certifications, misrepresented facts to the Commission and/or demonstrated a lack of candor," the FCC said in its discussion of the case. The FCC suggested that CRS declined to reveal Doty's felony convictions because it knew the information would potentially disqualify CRS and Doty as Commission licensees.

Regardless of the outcome of the hearing on the character qualification issues, the FCC said it also would determine whether to fine CRS as much as \$97,500 for its alleged failure to disclose Doty's felony convictions in one or more applications.

Since the 1990s, the FCC has applied character qualification standards previously reserved for broadcast licensees to applicants and licensees in other radio services, including the Amateur Radio Service.

You Might Be Addicted to Ham Radio IF:

"... your wife says 'the kids need to be fed,' and you first wonder what their impedances are." — Scott Goodman KI4OCF

"... your blood type is RF positive." — Tommy Hall AK2B

A Double Hard-Luck Antenna Lesson Tom Baxter K3MOV courtesy of www.eham.net

Ya know, there are two things that we have all known since the day we were born: 1) If it ain't broke, don't fix it; 2) Never have a person from Mexico, who cannot speak English, try to get your antenna higher in a tree as you are instructing him from the ground through a Costa Rican fellow who speaks English only slightly better than the guy in the tree.

A little background: My *Antennas & More* G5RV has performed spectacularly for me. It was :- (my one and only 75 meter antenna. It performed so well on 75 that the "gurus" on eHam started squabbling among themselves trying to come up with an explanation for its formidable DX qualities. I think they finally decided I was lying. Then they didn't have to deal with me anymore.

I only had 90' of space for my 102' antenna. By dark of night in my antennas forbidden development, I had attached one end to a high point on my house, about 40' high, and successfully threw (on the 25th try) the other end over the top of a pine tree which was about 40' high but very flimsy on top. I then tied the end of the 102' antenna to the base of the tree about 10' off the ground. I didn't realize it at the time, but I must have accidentally created some sort of "G5RV Inverted L Hybrid". From day one this baby was hot on 75. I worked all the DXpeditions with 500 watts and broke a lot of pileups within the first five calls. I was getting stations in Europe before some of the big boys with their 12 element fixed arrays, whatever that is. Oh, that's right, you can't work DX on 75 with a G5RV 35' above the ground - sorry.)

Well, time passed and the antenna continued to perform well. However, every morning as I looked out the window, I noticed the end of the antenna in the tree was getting lower and lower. Performance was still great, but I couldn't handle seeing the poor thing droop. What to do, what to do?? Wait a minute, the roofers are coming next week to put a new roof on the house. I'll just slip one of them \$20 and have him use a plastic tie gun to really secure the antenna to the tippy, tippy top of the tree. There would still be about 12' pointing down along the tree, but who cares? That's probably the key to my good DX.

As the roofers were finishing up the job, I approached the foreman (a/k/a the fellow from Costa Rico who "speaks " English) and explained what I wanted to have done. "Yes, I understand", he said, but he seemed more fascinated with the plastic tie gun than he was with my explanation of what I wanted done with the antenna.

Enter Murphy! It was my intention, of course, to stand fairly close to the

tree so I could supervise in English the foreman, who would then translate my instructions into Spanish. Well, I received a call advising me that my three year old granddaughter was not feeling well and Pop Pop had to go pick her up at school. No problem. I love seeing my Little Stinker, even when she's not feeling well, and even when I felt all hell was going to break loose as soon as I left the antenna "razing" party.

By the time I got home, the roofers were gone. It was too dark to see the antenna anyway so I decided to wait until the next day. As you probably know, some antenna purists will tell you there is no such thing as a G5RV Jr. or G5RV Lite. All I can say to that is they have not seen what was left of my wonderful, beautiful, efficient A&M G5RV. It was so mutilated I could hard bear looking at it. One of its legs was completely severed and I could not find the missing limb, which could possibly have been reattached. It was SK on arrival. It was a sad, sad day in K3MOV-'ville.

I waited a couple of days before contacting the roofing company. I knew it was important to get my story down just right. One wrong word or phrase and the owner of the company, rather than empathizing over my loss would be on my case for having his workers getting paid by him for working on my hobby. I called the company and asked to speak to the owner. Before I could even begin my spiel, he said, "Tom, what's this I hear about my men working on you ham radio antenna? Don't you realize that if they were hurt while doing that, my insurance carrier would have a fit.....blah, blah, blah". At that point, I wished the roofers hadn't done such a good job on the roof so I could interject with a complaint. Murphy had bitten and he had bitten hard. It was all I could do to shut the guy up and get off the phone. How could they be so good at putting a roof on and so bad at attaching a wire to a tree??

Now, as pass the window, I no longer see the drooping G5RV that had brought me such joy. I simply gaze and sing to myself:

*Don't go changing, to try and please me
You never let me down before
Don't imagine you're too familiar
And I don't see you anymore
I wouldn't leave you in times of trouble
We never could have come this far
I took the good times; I'll take the bad times
I'll take you just the way you are*

WACOM Hamfest

Sunday, November 5th 2006, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM — Doors open for Vendor Setup at 6:00 AM

First Prize: Yaesu FT-857D

Second Prize: Yaesu FT-7800

Third Prize: Yaesu FT-60

VE Exams at 11:00 AM — DXCC Card Checking — Door Prizes — YL Prizes

Breakfast & Lunch by Jack's Catering — Free Coffee all day courtesy of Ham Radio Insurance Associates

Washington County Fairgrounds, Washington, PA

For More Information contact Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI at n3zni@arrl.net or (724) 746-9235

www.wacomarc.org



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
 - Age 65 or older, \$36 in US
 - Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)
 - Canada \$49
 - Elsewhere \$62
 - Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate
Dues subject to change without notice)
 - Additional Family Members at the same address (\$8 per family member)
- Name & Call Sign: _____
- Name & Call Sign: _____
- Name & Call Sign: _____

Inside This Issue:

- Picnic Cancelled! (Why?)
- N3SH / Pa QSO Party Plans Progress!
- Check out the club websites lately?

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



Tower Work

Jim Sanford's tower took another growth spurt by 30-ft to a height of 100-ft on August 26th, 2006. The hot muggy day took its toll on Jim Tommasin WO3Z and Jim WB4GCS and kept the group from placing the 11-ft top section and third set of guy wires. These pictures show both Jim's at the 90-ft level installing bolts. Others helping on the ground were Todd W8LEV, Frank KB3FZU, Larry K3VX, Kevin N3HKQ, and Jim's neighbor Eric.

Photos & text courtesy of & Copyright ©2006 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

The WASHRag

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