



## Field Day @ Mingo!

This year's WASH Field Day will have two unusual aspects:

- We're using two sites within Mingo Creek Park. One is on the Observatory Hill and the other is Shelter 9 with 2M simplex link between the two sites. Spreading out the operation will allow use of the same band for two modes.
- WASH is joining forces with the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh for a combined Field Day and Star Party. AAAP 's publicity should bring members of the public to the site.

The HF SSB and VHF stations will be at the Observatory, using WA3SH as their call. The Team Leader for the Observatory is Randy N3ZK. WASH operations will use tents. Operations will include the use of the new Tower-Trailer for satellite communications as a tie-in to the AAAP Star Party. We plan to have a Get On The Air station available, too. Power for lighting will come from the Observatory. The park has recently built new bathroom facilities at the site.

The CW and Digital modes will use Shelter 9., operating as N3SH. The Team Leader for Shelter 9 is Larry K3VX. We'll have two CW and one Digital station on HF.

[Because the distance between the Observatory and Shelter 9 is well over 1000 feet, we must use separate calls for each operation as per Field Day rules. Randy has confirmed this with the ARRL — editor]

We have several undecided issues which will be nailed down at our June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Location(s) of food? (Randy's favorite topic)
- GOTA station location & call?
- Entry classes?
- Who is going to operate where... and when?

— 73, Larry Comden K3VX  
WASH Field Day Chairman



### Jim Sanford WB4GCS Wins 2007 Atlantic Division Technical Achievement Award

The ARRL Atlantic Division Awards Committee is pleased to announce that the 2007 Atlantic Division Technical Achievement Award has been awarded to Jim Sanford WB4GCS.

Jim was first licensed in the sixth grade and was a 1976 graduate of the US Naval Academy. While active in the Navy, he was active with Navy MARS stations both on ships and on shore.

Jim was nominated for his involvement with the AMSAT program. He is currently serving as the Project Manager for the AMSAT OSCAR Eagle project. This project is the next generation high earth orbit satellite under construction now by AMSAT North America. Eagle will provide many services and reliable communications on bands not previously available and will build upon technology developed by AMSAT-NA for use in P3E.

Eagle is currently in development stage although the major components are finished (and installed on P3E) and other components such as the software defined transponder have been demonstrated.

The award was presented to Jim at the 2007 ARRL Atlantic Division Convention in Rochester, NY on June 1<sup>st</sup>—3<sup>rd</sup>.

— Bill Edgar N3LLR, Director, and Tom Abernethy W3TOM, Vice Director, ARRL Atlantic Division

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### Next Meeting: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Field Day, the AMSAT Symposium, and the Tower Trailer project (Phase III), will be amongst the topics of the evening.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3FB/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

# The Tower Trailer Meets the Library

photos courtesy of & ©Copyright 2007 Dan McCann KB3HVN



## WASH 2007 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Randy George N3ZK  
 VP / Secretary Frank Bobro N3FB  
 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 2008 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman Carol Danko KB3GMN Bill Hill W3WH Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Activities & Operating Events	Larry Comden K3VX
Field Day 2007 Coordinator	Larry Comden K3VX Ted Huf W4ZE
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
Mobile Tower Project	Paul Lusardi NØVLR Randy George N3ZK

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

**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

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

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN  
 3395 Rosewood Drive  
 Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

e-mail: [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3shdotorg) or [w3wn at arrl dot net](mailto:w3wn@arrl-dot-net)

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 N3FB/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 Glen Roberts KE7FD of The Internet Guild for his assistance in providing space on-line for our website for back issues of *"The WASHRag™"* which can be found at [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info)

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test July 19<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 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](mailto:n3zel@fyi.net)

Please bring the following to your test session:

- Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
- Pen / Pencil / Calculator
- Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
- Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
- Check or Cash in the amount of **\$14.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
 Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
 Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
 Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> brought the intrepid souls of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** out to start the Memorial Day weekend right, down at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. The north corner tables filled with coffee pots galore (they're learning!) this month featured the likes of K3HCR, W3VRA, N3DFK, W8LEV, K3VX, N3HKQ & Peg, W3WH, W3WN, N2QIV, N3FB, KB3GMU, and Mary Lou Marzina. Topics of the morning included Field Day, Hamvention wrap-up, digital modes, the New Hope & Ivyland RR, PRR Doodlebug 4666, A.R.F., snow in Colorado, low sodium & high blood pressure, the WPa Hilltoppers, a club history lesson from Randy, wall warts, clutter, cat ladies, highway traffic, "T" parking, HO Model railroading, WPXI-TV & security, "nut jobs," bear-proof trash cans in Vail CO, the upcoming Breezeshooter's Hamfest and Amateur Radio Day at PNC Park... and that's just from the center of the table, let alone the two ends too!

Our next breakfast hopes to be just as much fun, especially with Field Day behind us, so don't miss out! Join us for the next club breakfast, Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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!

**Field Day Breakfast:** The last few years, Field Day weekend has coincided with the last Saturday of the month. Not this year, though. If there is enough interest, there will be an informal pre-Field Day Setup breakfast gathering on the morning of June 23<sup>rd</sup> — time and place to be determined. See Larry K3VX if you're interested.

**Congratulations to Jim WB4GCS** for his well-deserved Division Technical Achievement award!

**How about that Tower Trailer?** We moved Randy's column to Page 5 this month to make room for the news about Jim, but please make a point to give him a well-deserved "atta-boy!" for everything he's done on the project. In addition to bringing it to the last meeting, he also hauled the mobile tower to the club outdoor setup at Breezeshooter's. It was a huge hit! People were totally amazed to see what Randy, Paul, and the rest of the trailer construction crew pulled off, especially when you consider that a commercial version of the unit would probably sell for \$15,000 or more! We also fielded at least a dozen semi-serious offers on the trailer, an offer to sell us a mobile repeater setup for it, & Randy may be hearing from a few people who want him to build one for them!

There are more of Dan's photos out on the club web site, plus these photos in full size and full color. Worth looking at!

The project is somewhere between 90 to 95% done. The display banners thanking all of our sponsors are on order and should be here soon. We have one beam for it (a 10 meter beam that Ted W4ZE has been holding on to for the club since it was last used many a Field Day ago), but could use a few more antennas and other miscellaneous items. You're probably tired of hearing "we just need another small donation" to finish the project off — but as you can see, we really do!

The tower trailer will be at Field Day, up at the Observatory operating position, for public display.

**Goodbye and thank you:** Ted W4ZE has been a mainstay of the club for more years than we can think of, since he returned to the area quite some time ago. As you probably know by now, Ted officially retired last month and has relocated to Florida to enjoy his time. Thanks for everything Ted, we will miss you... and we expect you to win your FL section in the 2007 Pa QSO Party!

## WASHNet 2007 NCS Schedule

06/03	Harold K3HCR	Alternates
06/10	Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	Dave N3IDH Ron W3WN
06/17	Michael KB3HFP	<i>Note: NCS Schedule for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of 2007 will be in the next newsletter</i>
06/24	Hank KB3FNM	

ARRL has sent out over 100 letters to 440 MHz repeater owners in the Cape Cod, MA and Sacramento, CA areas, advising them of USAF complaints of interference to the PAVE PAWS radar system. ARRL is working with the US DOD to resolve the situation without forcing those repeaters off the air.

Affected repeater owners are requested to lower their transmit power to 5 W ERP for the time being until the situation can be worked out.

A wholesale nationwide shut-down of 440 MHz repeaters is not on the table!

## Pennsylvania PRB-1 Update & Request For Your Support

The following E-mail was received from State Senator Stewart Greenleaf's Office:

I just wanted to let you know that SB 884 was officially printed and referred to the Senate Local Government Committee on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The committee is chaired by Senator Robert Regola.

Please feel free to communicate your support for and movement of SB 884 out of the Senate Local Government Committee and to the Senate floor for a vote to:

Senator Robert Regola, Chairman  
 Senate Local Government Committee  
 Room 187, Main Capitol Building  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120

The link below will allow you to view the official bill (all as one address line):

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0884&pn=1076>

Eric Pauley, Executive Assistant  
 Office of Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2007 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!**

# Minutes, May 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Frank Bobro N3FB, Vice President/Secretary, *WASH*

Paul NØVLR (acting for Randy N3ZK who was going to be late), **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:01 hours. There were 31 members and guests in attendance.

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

Committee reports:

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

**Secretary (N3FB):** A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the April meeting as published in the May newsletter. Ron W3WN motioned and Carol KB3GMN, seconded. The motion was voted on and passed.

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** Next VE session is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in July. The date is published in the newsletter.

**QSL Manager (N3ZNI):** Two new batches of cards came in; we are still getting NP2SH cards.

**Website (N3ZK):** Up & running with no problems.

**Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB):** Pete says that the N3RNX repeater is functioning well. Frank says that on the N3FB machine the two link radios are (finally!) coordinated. He has e-mailed the latest power bills to Mark N3RDV.

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** Kevin thanked all of the net control operators for sending in the lists of check-ins that he had requested. He will collect that information for the web.

**Ways and Means (KB3GMN):** There will be a 50/50 after the meeting.

**Public Service (N3RDV):** Dave N3IDH, there is a run in Raccoon Park this August. A walk/run for Alex in Bentleyville is coming up the on the day before the BreezeShooters Hamfest.

**Contests & Activities (K3VX):** This Saturday is the Mid-Atlantic QSO party. It is only 12 hours this year to avoid conflicts with Mother's Day.

Field Day activities will be at Mingo Park Shelter # 9. It appears that both of our sites are within the spirit of the 1000' circle. We are considering running as a 4A station. We would run 2 phone stations at the observatory site and 2 CW with a digital at the shelter. This year's event is held in cooperation with the Amateur Astronomers Club. We will also have a GOTA station as we are expecting visitors from the general public. Carol KB3GMN, was volunteered to coordinate the food.

**Quartermaster (K3HCR):** The club's gear is in order. Don AE3DL, donated a laptop computer to the club equipment.

**Newsletter (W3WN):** The May newsletter is out. Ron would like to get the June newsletter out early. Renewal on the [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info) site is coming up. Two years costs \$14. Ron will make the payment.

**President's Report (N3ZK):** Randy N3ZK, presented the almost complete tower trailer to the club after the meeting adjourned.

**Old Business:** Kevin N3HKQ, gave an AMSAT update. He showed a brochure on the event that he is working on. The details of the symposium are progressing nicely. He is just about ready to start collecting volunteers.

Ron W3WN, withdrew the motion to purchase a digital camera that was tabled in February.

**New Business:** Ed asked if we are buying Field Day pins. The club has typically paid for them in years past but the decision was made that this year the club will not be providing pins. There was discussion on the club's QSL cards and it was decided to continue with the status quo.

**Good of the Order:** This could possibly be Ted's W4ZE, last meeting. His relocation to Florida is almost complete.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Bill, W3WH, and seconded by Bob, W3RJM; the motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:11.

"American inventor and physicist Lee De Forest develops the vacuum tube triode in June 1906. The triode is a three terminal device that allows him to develop an amplifier for audio signals, making AM radio possible. The vacuum tube triode also helps push the development of computers forward as the tubes are used in several computer designs in the late 1940s and early 1950s."  
— *The Computer History Calendar*

# WASH Spotlight: Off We Go!



...into the Wild Blue Yonder? Dave N3IDH at the US Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH. Well, you see, he and a bunch of other club members just happened to be in the neighborhood for this Hamvention thing, and well, you know...

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2007 Frank Bobro N3FB

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 W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

## Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

AB3ED	KB3IRQ	N3FB	W3WH	WASH /MM	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3IVW	N3FPF	W3WN	KA3UPY	
AE3DL	KB3IVX	N3HKQ	W4ZE	WASH GA	
K3EED	KB3KOT	N3PN	W8LEV	K3OL	K3EED
(Cindy)	KB3KQY	N3QMV	WA3JPP	KB3IJX	(George)
K3HCR	KB3NSG	N3RDV	WA4ONC	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3LGM	KB3NVL	N3RNX	WB4GCS	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3SGT	KB3NVM	N3SBF	WO3Z	WASH NY	N3FZ
K3VX	KB3ORR	N3ZEL	Woody	KE3XB	N3KEH
K3WJL	KC4WTT	N3ZK	Eicker	N3YPB	N3OBD
KA3TWI	KE7FD	N3ZNI	Jane	WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3DCO	KN3A	N9OKM	Wagner	N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3FNM	NØVLR	W3BC		WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMN	NØWPV	W3JJC		K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3GMP	N2QIV	W3LE		WASH VI	
KB3GMU	N3AWF	W3RJM		NP2JF	
KB3HFP	N3BPB	W3RWS			
KB3HVN	N3CZZ	W3SRL			
KB3IAC	N3DFK	W3VFA			

Through June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

## Where Do I Begin?

Randy George N3ZK, President, WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS N3SH WA3SH NP2SH

**Tower Trailer Update!!** To date the tower trailer project is almost complete. As many of you seen at the last meeting as well as at the Breezshooters HamFest, we are well on our way to completion. We need a few things though to make it work. We need a thrust bearing, a rotor plate and small odds and ends. Please, lets work together to get these last few items purchased.

**Field Day!!!** Field Day is right around the corner. With the Alien Landing Zone 1 (CW and Digital) and Alien Landing Zone 2 (SSB), we will have just about every mode covered. We will be using 2 calls again this year, N3SH and WA3SH. We will be deploying the tower trailer at the observatory. We will be having food at both sites, however we ask that people please bring covered dishes, snacks etc to the "SITE" you will be attending. Field Day this year looks to be very busy for us. There will be lots of people at the observatory.

Does anyone have a golf cart to use between sites?

**Leaving on a... U-Haul?** This month will mark the last month for fellow club member and friend to all of us, Ted Huf, W4ZE. Ted will be leaving just before Field Day to go to his new QTH in Port St. Lucy Florida. Ted is a very avid contesteer and will be missed up here in the north, especially during Field Day and PA QSO!! At least he will be back in "4" land. Late last month, Ted and I made the long trip down to Florida in a Penske Truck, carrying his 55' Crank up tower, his antennas and lots of boxes. Wait till we take pictures of his new QTH with his tower and antennas back up!! We hope Ted all the best in his new QTH and hope to hear him on the air waves.

More news to come...



## "I Will Live In A Very Quiet World"

David Searle, Redditch Advertiser (Internet Edition)

*Redditch, South Midlands, England, UK, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007* — A blind amateur radio ham fears he may lose his contact with the outside world if he is given an antisocial behaviour order over the aerials he keeps in his garden.

Robin Wood, 61, of Ombersley Close, Woodrow, is a licensed amateur radio operator who has had aerials in his garden for 15 years.

But after a visit from an ASBO officer, Redditch Council wants to reduce the size of the aerials, meaning he will no longer be able to communicate with his friends around the world.

"I'm blind and the radio is the only way I can communicate with the outside world. I use the radio as my social life," said Mr. Wood.

"I'm not prepared to lose my quality of life. I feel threatened when I go outside and haven't been out on my own for 15 years.

"I can't watch the TV either. Without my radio, I will live in a very quiet world."

Mr. Wood uses the radio to keep in touch with friends from as far afield as New York, Australia and Canada but the reduced sized aerials would not be able to transmit that far.

"The council just won't listen to me. They won't find anyone technically competent enough who can tell me exactly what the problem is and exactly what I have to take down and why I have to do it.

"They've threatened me with court if I don't take them down. I speak to them but they don't take anything on board," said Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood's wife June said: "When you think of ASBOs, you think of young delinquents, not a 61-year-old man."

Mr. Wood is now involved in talks with lawyers about the steps he can take to keep his aerials the same size.

A council spokesman said: "Residents are concerned about the visual impact of this resident's aerials, the radio interference they are experiencing and the nuisance this is causing them.

"Following legal advice, we're working with the resident and the relevant organisations involved to come to a solution that meets the needs of all parties."

## Manassas (VA) Ham Proves BPL Ingress A Problem Even At QRP

Don Carlson KQ6FM courtesy of Amateur Radio Newline

A simple test conducted by a ham radio operator in Manassas, Virginia, has provided proof positive that even flea-power QRP ham radio operations can shut down Broadband Over Powerline Internet access operation.

The revelation comes on the website of George Tarnovsky, K4GVT. On it, Tarnovsky shows the results of tests made using only 40 watts and QRP at 2 watts on the 80 through 10 meter bands.

The gear used in his test was an ICOM 706 transceiver, with Outbacker Perth antenna on his car parked curb side. The vehicle was approximately 70 feet from his house, and more than 100 feet from the BPL power pole interface. Inside the home a laptop with BPL interface repeatedly downloading a 40 Megabyte file.

Tarnovsky: "Well, what we found is that when we were within reasonably close proximity -- I would say within 100 feet or so of any of the BPL installations - when we transmitted on E-CARS on 7.225 that we actually had an affect on them. The way we knew that we had an affect was that as soon as you released the microphone (PTT), rather than hearing the typical BPL noise, you knew the system was backed up with data and consequently became very aggressive and just blanked (the band). If you looked at a spectrum display of it -- it just covered the entire spectrum. Its almost as though all the stops were off. In other words the band stops were off. Just rip and get the data out and that's exactly what it did."

What K4GVT found was that on all bands the connection suffered at least a major slowdown when he transmitted at the 40 watt level. On 80 through 15 meters the 40 watts caused the download to stop altogether and requiring it to be restarted. But the biggest surprise was on 40 meters where 2 watts of R-F rendered the BPL connection numb. He says that the 2 watts at 7 MHz caused the BPL data transfer to stop.

Tarnovsky: " With the original G1 installation, 2 watts would have an affect on it. Since then they have made some changes in their firmware to the G1. The G2 has agile notching so they can go in and they can notch it (the spectrum), but being agile they can also remove them and that's the problem that we

**BPL QRM Continued on Page 7**

# Voices Reaching Out In To The Night

Orrin Brand K9KEJ courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

With a coffee cup perched close by, those first words of the early morning hours seemed a bit strained, but nevertheless once they started the old familiar call of CQ came forth.

Sleep is a precious commodity for me, and I finally realized that no matter what I do, I no longer enjoy the luxury of eight-plus hours of pillow time.

Maybe it's the mysteries of the darkness-perhaps it's the solitude, or maybe it's just plain comforting to realize I can flip a few switches and transport myself around the world to some exotic location.

Another couple sips of my infamous jet fuel coffee and I am bolstered enough to wade my way through the atmospheric noise and garbage.

The shack lights are more subdued this early morning, with hardly enough illumination to see the log book. But I continued anyway.

A couple more calls and then I sat back and waited. Out of the darkness came a voice, a crisp brogue from down under and the cycle continues.

It has become a morning ritual for me to drop in on the VKs and ZLs on the low end of the 40-meter phone band and rag chew with a platoon of chaps who seem to enjoy staying up late so they can renew their friendships with their stateside friends.

This segment brought me into contact with a VK operator who reported he was getting ready for bed, but would stay in the QSO for a while because he had questions for me about the Chicago area. He then proceeded to inquire about the fine steak restaurants located throughout the metropolitan area here, since he was planning a holiday in the Windy City. I informed Brian that he'll have a host of different steak places to choose from. He responded that he planned to sample at least a dozen and then take a sightseeing ride on one of the big, Lake Michigan boats.

I glanced at the clock and locals time was a shade past 4-a.m. Signals on 40 started changing and Brian slowly dipped into the noise. Too bad.

I called CQ again and when the VOX let go another down-under station rose to the occasion. This time it was a ZL.

Ted was on the South Island, a place I became infatuated with when I visited that country. He told me he was a photographer about to retire and consequently spend his days fishing and touring the South Pacific. Conditions weren't great at that moment and Ted's signal bounced up and down for a bit until it became too difficult to hear what he was telling me.

As I glanced out the window I could see those first strains of sunlight creeping up over the horizon. I knew right then and there I was done for the morning talking to the South Pacific.

So I turned everything down and started writing a fresh newspaper column. But my mind continued to be fed by this never-ending desire to keep reaching out. By 8 a.m., Europe starting rolling in and a long-time friend from outside London showed up on 20. He informed me that he was now immersed in a series of new "in-the-kitchen" classes, since he always wanted to learn how to be a gourmet cook.

A bit of breakfast and another cup of coffee went down smoothly.

By now the rest of the band came alive with signals coming in from both coasts as well as our Canadian neighbors to the north. For some reason, even though I derive great pleasure of chewing the fat with stateside friends during mid-day periods, it's those, sunless, very early-in-the-morning QSOs that develop into memorable events. For me it seems that the night hours offer exotic mysteries and learning opportunities every single time the transmitter spits out energy.

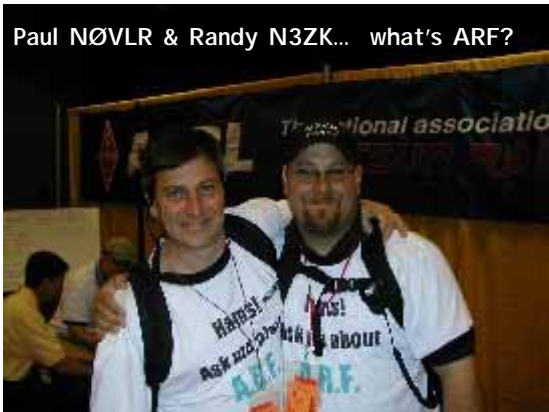
Even the great geography teachings of our instructors in school have taken a back seat to the real-life, first hand instructionals offered by some Ham Radio operator coming to me from some far off place.

For me rag chewing with a foreign DX station is a Ham Radio elixir, a shot in the arm, so to speak. It's the learning about a foreign Ham's culture and lifestyle which I believe is almost paramount to getting a graduate degree in life's experiences.

And because I am one of those restless souls who prowls the ether most early mornings, I not only have a chance to hear the Spring sounds of the waking birds, but also revel in the accented voices of those other Hams who throw a switch and call out for contact with another human being. What a hobby!

Paul NØVLR & Randy N3ZK... what's ARF?

Randy N3ZK & Paul KB3KOT spending \$\$\$



## Dayton Hamvention 2007

pictures courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007 Frank Bobro N3FB



Anybody want to dance for a hat? The ICOM Girls in the Hamvention Flea Market.



Maybe it's my imagination, but doesn't that tower require guys after all these years?



History for Sale



*The Amateur Astronomers Association of  
Pittsburgh  
And  
The Wireless Association of South Hills  
Amateur Radio Club*



— Invite you to a free special event —

## The 2007 Amateur Radio Field Day and Star Party!

Come see regions of space containing star clusters and nebulae, visit the craters of the moon, and marvel at the solar system's two largest planets. Then listen to various amateur radio stations around the country, and learn about the exciting world of amateur radio communications!

It's all part of the show during the [2007 Amateur Radio Field Day and Star Party!](#)

Sponsored by the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, and the Wireless Association of South Hills. The event takes place at the Mingo Creek Park Observatory starting at 2:00 PM EDT on Saturday, June 23, located in Mingo Creek County Park, Nottingham Township, Washington County, Pa.

This is an opportunity for amateur astronomers, radio enthusiast, students and the general public to observe the wonders of the sky. Visitors will have an opportunity to observe the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon, and the bright planets, Saturn and Jupiter.

Learn how to use a telescope, accessories, and star charts, and take in a planetarium show in the observatory's classroom. Or, watch and listen as amateur 'Hams' make radio contacts to the far corners of our nation, including using amateur communications satellites, and try your own hand at working the radio dials at our 'Get On The Air' Station

**Event runs 24 hours , 2:00 PM Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> through 2:00 PM Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>.**

About the Mingo Creek Park Observatory: The Observatory is located 10 miles east of Washington PA in Nottingham Township in Mingo Creek County Park. The park is in the northeast section of Washington County. The observing location is on the top of the hill past Shelter 10. At 1149 foot elevation, it is one of the higher undeveloped points in Washington County. The hill affords an almost 100% view of the sky, and because of its location in a rural country park, still enjoys considerably dark night skies. The park is located off Route 88 or Route 136 in Washington County.

The Mingo Creek Park Observatory has two permanently mounted telescopes in separate rooms, a 10" refractor and a 24" robotic RC reflector telescope. The building also houses a classroom full of astronomical displays and a small planetarium where the simulated night sky can be displayed indoors.

For more information on the history, observatories, activities, and membership of the **AAAP**, please write us at: **AAAP, P.O. Box 314, Glenshaw, PA 15116.** Or access the AAAP website on the Internet: <http://www.3ap.org>

For more information about the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** at <http://www.n3sh.org>

### BPL QRM Continued from Page 5

are facing here."

Tarnovsky notes that regardless of what carriers a BPL provider might notch out of a system, the system operator cannot filter its input. As such, RF ingress to the BPL system is wide open, and susceptible to all near field RF from 2 to 29 Mhz. Even one that's only 2 watts and more than 100 feet away.

More on the BPL ingress experiment by K4GVT including a band by band results chart is on his website at [www.k4gvt.com/bpl/bplweakness.html](http://www.k4gvt.com/bpl/bplweakness.html)

July 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Race Weekend in Schenley Park.

Amateur Radio operators are needed, as always, on all corners of the race track to help provide race officials with safety and vehicle information for a safe, fun, race.

Please contact Corky N3MJP at (724) 626-0873 or (724) 217-5458 and let him know when you're available to help!

And look for W3WN, K3VX & KB3HVN at Flag Corner 18!

## Working N8S

Lawrence J. Maso NU4B courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

DX'ing at the 5-watt level can be challenging in the best of times. But when a "new one" comes on the air, it's hard to avoid the DX bug.

The Swains Island DXpedition offered one of those times where even the little pistols might have a shot at a rare entity. Having missed a Peter I Island QSO by my own bungling, I wasn't sure my station or I was up to the task. Add the progress of the current solar cycle and it became apparent there was a good chance this wasn't going to happen at NU4B.

To be in the QRP DXing game you have to be ever optimistic. The first days of the DXpedition were out. Once this "most wanted country" got on the air the bands were going to be a zoo for a while. Work was heavy also, so my attention could not be on ham radio. If I were to ever have a shot, it would come at the end of the operation.

As the final Wednesday came I became ill with a cold/virus going around. Between work and sneezing, I was not a happy camper and in no mood to get on the air. The next evening my QRP DX buddy, NV4G, called and said he worked N8S both on 15 and 17 meters. Wow, a great tip. I turned on the rig and unbelievably I could barely hear N8S on any band. — Certainly not enough to make a QSO. I think the term "ESP" was appropriate in describing what I heard. How did my buddy work these guys — on two bands?

One important thing to note is that we essentially have the same set up. Both of us were using an ICOM 703 at 5 watts out and a Carolina Windom Short 80 antenna. My antenna was actually much higher in the air. The only difference was the orientation on the antennas. My buddy's was oriented in a direction that put KH8/S broadside to his antenna. Mine was 90 degrees off. The results were startling. Not only could I not make a QSO, I couldn't here much of anything to make a QSO with. With the final weekend approaching things were not looking good.

My next thought was to try 40 and 30. Like a trooper I got up in the middle of the night, miserable with a cold, only to find both bands with unworkable conditions. (Most of these unworkable conditions were man made.) With time running out, this really looked like another Peter I Island for me. Just thoughts of what might have been.

As Friday evening rolled around the solar flux sank even lower. However, N8S was coming in on 17. I could actually hear the exchanges. I knew this was my chance. N8S was at the point of calling CQ many times to raise contacts. I tried and tried and I could not get Swains to hear me. To add more insult I heard QRP station after QRP station work into N8S. When I called nothing - not even a "?". They had no idea I was there.

As my mood went from elation to depression (compounded by the fact that my buddy worked them not once but twice) I was about to give it up. It was at that time I thought about the Butternut HF5B sitting on the roof. I rarely use the antenna, since I find the windom works so well. I hadn't tuned it up in a few years. It survived heavy windstorms. In fact in one storm the wind picked up the patio umbrella, pulled it up over the house, and sliced one of the antenna guy wires causing the antenna to collapse. I did nothing to it but replace the rotator and raise it back up really to get it out of the way. On 17 meters it's nothing more than a dipole anyway -- but it is rotatable, hmm.

I had recently reconfigured my shack and took the rotator box out since I wasn't using it. Then panic set in. What did I do with the rotator control box? I found everything but the rotator control cable. Finally after digging through a box of cables I found it. After everything was hooked up, I swung the antenna around and yesssssssss — N8S's signal picked up dramatically. After a few minutes trying to find out where they were listening, I gave it a shot and that sweet sound of code came back — NU? Well that was certainly an improvement, but I was hoping for a little more. A few exchanges later the QSO was complete. I was in the log and I bet the only ham to get a 559 (I'm sure a generous report) as a signal report.

Many DXers think us QRPers are a bit crazy, but the fun is in the challenge. You win some and lose some. In this case, as with the majority of rare activations, the N8S ops were top notch. And I thank the op I worked for hanging in there. That's how I worked Swains, how about you?

In the meantime, as soon as the weather clears, I think I might tune up that HF5B -- just in case.

Effective immediately, all mail send to the Yasme Foundation should go to: **The Yasme Foundation, P.O. Box 20578, Castro Valley, CA 94546.** The current mailing address shown on the Yasme Web site ([www.yasme.org](http://www.yasme.org)) is now correct. Mail sent to the old box number, Box 2025, will be forwarded for approximately six months.

— Wayne Mills N7NG, President, The Yasme Foundation

## DX News Briefs



This month's **3B6** DXpedition to Agalega Island ran into problems. "Their catamaran sustain severe damage on route to Agalega Isl. **3B6SP**. The accident happen when volcano erupted on Reunion Island. Their catamaran was badly shaken and boat was flooded with water. The navigation equipment got damaged and one of engines as well. They send distress call using their ham radio equipment for help. The plane came in to locate their position and then fishing boat arrive and put them on towing. Due to the fact that all this happen the DXpedition team members decide to change their plans and operate from **3B7 St. Brandon** instead. They were planning to do official web page updates from Agalega but now they lost that ability and they do not have a way to update their official web page. Also web master is one of the crew member." — VA3PL

**VP6DX Ducie Island:** K3NA announced at the DX Forum at Dayton Hamvention that DL6LAU plans to lead a team of "13 highly experienced operators" on a DXpedition to Ducie Island during February 2008. They plan to spend 13 days on the atoll. All landing permissions and licenses are granted, and they have secured a suitable charter vessel. More information will be available at [www.vp6dx.com](http://www.vp6dx.com) — K3NA

"There were several **40xA** calls used during the 2007 WPX CW contest. I did a little research to clarify QSL info and location of some 40 stations.

They are:	Serbia	Montenegro
	4O0A via YU1SR5	4O3A via YT6A
	4O1A via YU1EXY	4O4A via YT6Y
	4O2A via 4N1SM	4O6A via YT6A
	4O5A via YU7AV	4O7A via YT6T
	4O8A via YU1MM	
	4O9A via YU1FW	
	4O9T via YU7AAA and YT7C	

Apparently, all 4O calls outside Montenegro will expire on 31 December 2007 the latest. Most likely earlier." — VE3EXY [4O is now the prefix for Montenegro but is still in "transition" from prior use in Serbia — editor]

"We have in hand our call signs for **A25 Botswana** this July. We will be on all bands from 160 through 6 meters on CW and SSB starting the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> of July till the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. Will also have 6/2 and 70 cm EME going. We will have a M2 6 meter beam up on top of one of the towers which will be ~60 feet high. Will have at least 300-400 watts or more" — K5LBU/A25CF

A group from Belgium plan to activate **HI0C** Cabras Island NA-122, for the first time in 18 years, from 11—17 June. QSL via ON4IQ — ON4QX

"PY2XB is still receiving many requests for his recent operation as **VP5/PY2XB**. QSL via PT7WA to avoid delays. For those sending bureau cards: be sure to write "VIA PT7WA!" so the Central Bureau will correctly send to the PT7 Bureau instead of the PY2 bureau." — PT7WA

## QSL Routes

1A4A via IZ4DPV — W4DN	CE1/K7CA via NW7O — WO2N
3D2TZ via UR7HTZ — JJ1BDX	EA9EU via EA5KB — K1SEZ
3DXZ2 via RW3AZ — NN3W	H44MS via DL2GAC — W2IRT
3XM6JR via UA6JR — KO1H	HI0C via ON4IQ — ON4QX
4O6T via PB2T — K1YR	J28RD via VA2NRJ — F1JKJ
5B4AIA via UA6MF — K8QM	J5B via F6BUM — W3AWU
5D5A via I2WIJ — K3WI	J5UTM via HA7TM — DO1DXX
5N8NDP via IK5JAN — W2IRT	OO5ZO via ON5ZO — DO1DXX
5R8GZ via G3SWH — K3WI	PZ5ZY via N6ZZ — F1JKJ
7O1YGF via DJ3XD — W4DN	S92FM via CT1HHP — F1JKJ
7W0AD via EA4URE — KA2BZS	SP0TPAX via SP7DQR — DO1DXX
7Z1UG via DG1XG — DO1DXX	ST2R via S57DX — W4DN
8P2K via KU9C — KU9C	TM5CI via F5UBH — W3AWU
9Q1EK via SM5DQC — NN3W	VP2MTE via G3SWH — WV1K
9Q1D via SM5BFJ — N5ZM	VP5/PY2XB via PT7WA — PT7WA
9U0X via DJ6SI — EU7SA	VP8ROT via GM0HCQ — DO1DXX
A45WD via YO9HP — W2IRT	XF2K via N6AWD — W3AWU
A71EM via EA7FTR — NN3W	XU7MDY via OH4MDY — K1YR
C21DL via DJ3EH — KA2BZS	YS1JBL via EA7FTR — NN3W
C91Z via KR5DX — W4DN	ZL7/KH0PR via J8DEN — F1JKJ

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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## FCC News

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

Newington, CT, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 — The FCC has announced a redesign of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) License Archive Search. Users can access this new functionality via the "Archives" button under "SEARCH" on the ULS page.



"Each time a license is acted upon, the current version is captured within ULS," the FCC explained today in a public notice. "The License Archive allows users to view the current and prior versions of a license."

In the redesigned License Archive, the search interface, results screen and detail pages will use the same display as ULS License Search. On the detail pages, users now will be able to directly access license information.

"There will be no need to 'drill down' — follow link after link — to reach the information you need," the FCC noted. "This enhancement increases functionality and improves compliance with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

The redesigned License Archive search interface allows a user to search using most of the criteria available in ULS Advanced License Search except for Radio Service Group, Licensee City, State and ZIP Code and Frequencies. Users will have the same ability to sort and restrict their archive search results that they have in ULS License Search, the FCC said. Licensee ID no longer will be available as a License Archive Search criterion, however. Users should now search by the Licensee's FCC Registration Number (FRN).

The search results display will be similar to the search results in License Search, with a few minor exceptions:

- No display of a "Pending Applications" icon.
- A column titled "Version" will display "Archived" or "Current" depending on the version of the license.
- A "Last Action Date" column will be used instead of "Expiration Date."

In general, the License Archive Search details will look similar to License Search details. However, the following additional fields will be displayed for all archived licenses:

- Last Action Date,
- Version,
- Licensee ID,
- Sub-Group Identification Number (SGIN).

Also, other License Search functions that previously were not available in the License Archive have been added:

- A Printable Page link allowing the user to print the contents of the page pre-formatted for most common printers.
- A Reference Copy link allowing the user to print an unofficial copy of the license.
- A link to view Related Applications from the current version of the license.
- Ability to view Attachments and Automated letters in a PDF file.

License Archive will display termination pending components similar to the manner in which they are currently displayed in License Search. Additionally, License Archive will display all terminated components of a license, regardless of when it was terminated. These components will indicate a status of "Terminated" on the component's summary and detail pages. Under the previous License Archive system, terminated components were not displayed unless the license itself was terminated as well.

For additional information or assistance, visit the FCC's E-Support Web site or call the FCC Support Center, (877) 480-3201 or 717-338-2888 (TTY 717-338-2824) and select Option #2, Forms or Licensing Assistance. Hours are weekdays, except federal holidays, from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time.

Members of the Limerick Radio Club will participate in the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and a re-enactment of the first trans-atlantic test passenger flight on 6—8 July 2007 under the call EI7ØFOY. QSL via Alan Cronin EI8EM

Further information can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/ei4arc>

— Richard L. Brunton G4TUT

Join us for  
**Amateur Radio Night**  
 at PNC Park



**Discount Ticket Price:**

L/R Grandstand: \$ 8.00  
 (Gate Price: \$9)  
 Outfield Box: \$17.00  
 (Gate Price: \$20)

Come cheer on the Pirates as they host  
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Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 PM  
 All in attendance will receive  
 a Bob Walk Bobblehead



**Amateur Radio Night Order Form**

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*Please mail to:*  
**Amateur Radio Night, Attention Chaz Kelle**  
**PNC Park at North Shore**  
**115 Federal Street**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5724**  
**Or call Chaz at (412) 325-4488**



The 2007 Atlantic hurricane season officially began June 1<sup>st</sup>, and runs through the end of November.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami is the focal point for hurricane predictions and advisories once a storm is identified. Information on the storm is gathered from a variety of sources, one being Amateur Radio. When a hurricane comes within 300 miles of landfall, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) generally is activated; the net may also be activated for a tropical storm that is expected to intensify to hurricane status.

HWN's primary thrust is to provide information to the NHC regarding the position and conditions within the storm area and providing advisories to those in the affected area who might not have any other way to get that information. HWN is not a "check-in" net, and checking in from outside of the affected area is strongly discouraged. HWN is also not a health and welfare traffic net but it will provide information as to frequencies where health and welfare nets are operational. When there is a named storm, feel

free to tune to 14.325 and *listen*, but please don't transmit unless you have good reason.

When the HWN is in operation, keep in mind that a clear frequency on either side is appreciated, since reporting stations will often be using makeshift antennas and low power. You can get up-to-date information on the storm, as well as receive the latest outlook and advisory bulletins via e-mail, at the Hurricane Watch Net Web site <http://www.hwn.org/>.



# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application/Renewal for 2007



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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:                         | \$20.00 | \$15.00 | \$10.00 | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: | \$10.00 | \$7.50  | \$5.00  | \$2.50 |
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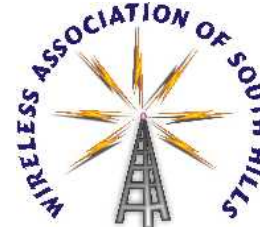
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Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.  
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Just fill out the form below, include a check or money order made out to WASH/ARRL, and return all to the club treasurer or mail to:

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Dues subject to change without notice

# Inside This Issue:

- Field Day 2007 Is Almost Here!
- WB4GCS Recognized!
- Now isn't that a pretty tower trailer?
- Anti-Social Antennas? No, really...
- Amateur Radio Day @ PNC Park up coming (have you called Chaz yet?)

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



## Now *THAT'S* a Tower!

Randy N3ZK demonstrating the Tower Trailer at the Peters Township Library after the May meeting.

Yes, the project is almost done! No, we're not doing the obvious Mae West-inspired joke.

More tower photos inside!

Photo courtesy and ©Copyright 2007 Dan McCann KB3HVN

## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.  
Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor  
3395 Rosewood Drive  
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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