



# WASHRAG™

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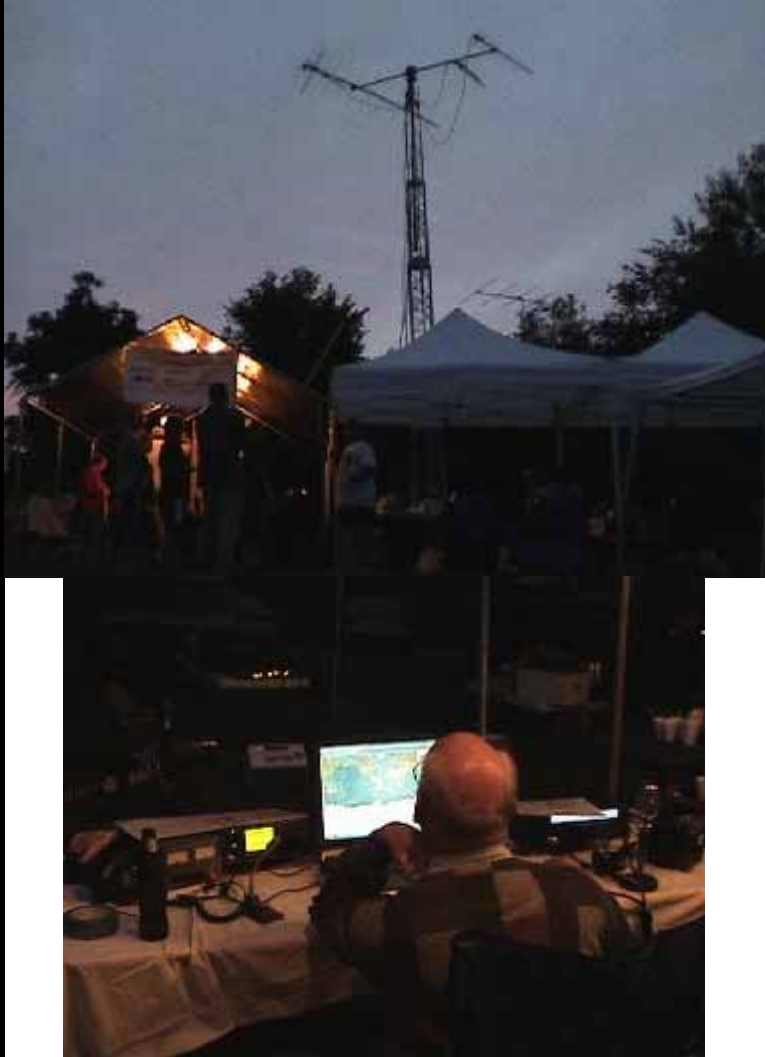
JULY 2007

N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

## Field Day !!



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### AAAP On Our Joint Field Day / Star Party

Larry McHenry, Amateur Astronomer's Association of  
Pittsburgh

We had a steady stream of visitors though out the day and evening for a total of 93 public guest, with 11 AAAP members assisting.

While the weather was typically lousy for both solar observing that afternoon, and later deep-sky that evening, we did manage to get an occasional glimpse of the Sun, Moon, Jupiter, and Saturn to please our guests.

In between the breaks in the clouds, they enjoyed the usual MCPO astronomy displays and presentations. (a few times, we were able to get in observations of M27, the Ring, and M4 using the goto on the 24" RCT).

Our 'co-sponsors' of the event, the WASH Amateur Radio Club also had a good day/evening/24 hours of practicing their emergency communications skills, contacting other amateurs from around the country and Canada, and sharing with the general public. One pretty neat thing was watching them use orbiting amateur radio satellites to communicate with other amateurs within the satellite coverage area. They had to be quick as each satellite was only in range for a short period of time as it passed over our horizon.

I was told that this was one of their biggest crowds they've ever had for an event, so the WASH members were very pleased with how everything worked out.

They were also very appreciative of the AAAP allowing them to use the facility

(AAAP Continued on page 2)

#### Inside this

More Field Day Pictures	2
WASH Club News	3
Pink Flamingos?	5
Letter to the Editor	6
More Field Day Pictures	6
FCC News	7
WASH Classified Ads	7
DX News Briefs	8

### Next Meeting: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Field Day wrap-up, W3P, the AMSAT Symposium, and the Pa QSO Party operations 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!

## AAAP on Field Day continued from Page 1

for Field Day. We've already begun making plans for holding another 'Field Day / Star Party' next year, so keep your 2008 June calendars open for the third or fourth weekend! (I'll pass along the exact date).

Here's a few photos from Saturday:

<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingo-construction/site/fd-0623-2007-01.jpg>  
<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingo-construction/site/fd-0623-2007-02.jpg>  
<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingo-construction/site/fd-0623-2007-03.jpg>  
<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingo-construction/site/fd-0623-2007-04.jpg>  
<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingo-construction/site/fd-0623-2007-05.jpg>  
<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingo-construction/site/fd-0623-2007-06.jpg>  
<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingo-construction/site/fd-0623-2007-07.jpg>  
<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingo-construction/site/fd-0623-2007-08.jpg>

Thanks again everyone!

All photos available at the MCPO Archive site:

<http://home.comcast.net/~lemaaap/mingoarchive.htm>

Our thanks to our hosts and friends at AAAP for a great time and a great joint effort.

We look forward to doing this with you again next year!



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## 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
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
W3P PVGP 2007 Coordinator	Bob McCloskey W3RJM
AMSAT Symposium Coordinators	Kevin Smith N3HKQ Pat Sanford KC4WTT
Field Day 2008 Coordinator	Larry Comden K3VX

### 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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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  
(tentative) Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The ARRL Atlantic Division is surveying division members for input on issues of importance.

The survey can be found at

<http://www.bestvote.org/phpQ/fillsurvey.php?sid=11>.

The survey runs thru July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that you must have an ARRL.NET address or e-mail alias to fill out the survey.

This is necessary to limit the survey only to League members, and to help prevent people from filling out multiple surveys from multiple e-mail addresses.

## New Western PA SEC Appointed

Well, I am pleased to announce that at long last we have a new Section Emergency Coordinator, Kathleen Peca, WY3R. This has not been an easy task — hence the long time we've spent. We've (Ralph, W3ZPI and myself) have spoken to several candidates, each well-qualified to be SEC.

In the end, though, it has to be my decision, as your Section Manager.

Kathleen, she distinctly prefers Kathleen to Kathy, brings so many unique qualities to the table, not least of which is a working knowledge of Section and District leadership learned through work as DEC for South-2, as well as EC for Blair Co.

I want take this opportunity to thank each of the candidates for stepping forward, and I know I can count on your continued support.

Please welcome Kathleen as our new SEC in Western Pennsylvania.

All reports which you have been sending to Ralph Ofchinik or myself should be sent to the new SEC, effective July 1, 2007. Kathleen's contact information is as follows:

Kathleen J. Peca, WY3R  
RR 2 Box 22  
Williamsburg, PA 16693-9618  
Phone: (814) 832-2246 (After 7 p.m.)  
Email: [WY3R@aol.com](mailto:WY3R@aol.com)  
or [wY3r@arrl.net](mailto:wY3r@arrl.net)

— 73, Larry O'Toole K3LBP  
ARRL WPA Section Manager

It was a bright, shiny, post-Field Day Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> that the **WASH Breakfast Gang** used to kick off a long Fourth of July weekend. At least for those who didn't sleep in! **The Beach House** in Finleyville hosted K3HCR, K3SGT & Barb, W3VFA, KB3FNM & Mary Lou, and W3WN this time around. Topics of the morning included Field Day issues, boating in Erie with KA3YTS, drinking Scotch "cleaning them out", verticals, garage door businesses, 3/4 scale steam locomotives, the East Stroudsburg Railroad, Mosaic classes, softball tournaments, business opportunities, text messaging, "take off your shoes!" at the airport, fundraising, IRQ's in old PC's for COM ports... and much more.

Our next breakfast, the last of the summer, should be just as much fun, so don't miss out! Join us for the next club breakfast, Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, July 28<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!

**Time Marches On:** Do you realize that in a little over a year, August 2008 will mark the **250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the Founding of the City of **Pittsburgh**, and the **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the founding of **WASH**? Yes, it's true! Now we have a lot on our plate for the rest of this year... Pa QSO Party and the AMSAT Symposium in October immediately come to mind, but we shouldn't allow those events to let us forget two big milestones like these! W3WN asked on the club reflector if a special event station and/or special operating be in order for next year, to mixed comments. [One thought would be to work with other area clubs on the city's anniversary (as in a collection of 1x1's), & also run N3SH, WA3SH, and/or NP2SH in some form to mark the club's anniversary]

What do you think? And any volunteers to run the shindig(s)?

**Congratulations to Greg KQ3DX**, the new editor of **KiloWatt Harmonics**, the newsletter of the **Steel City ARC**. Greg takes over from Tom AA3CE, who no longer has time to edit the newsletter, and he will be assisted by KB3NUQ, KB3LNG, and W3SVJ. (And Ye Editor will lend him a hand too). You can download the current issue of KWH from <http://www.w3kwh.com> -- he's done a fabulous job (we taught him well! <g>)

**Area Repeater News:** Heard two very interesting rumors the other day. The first one was that the North Hills ARC was bringing a **D-STAR digital repeater** to the Pittsburgh area. This turns out to be true! The packet repeater at WQED on 444.35 has been replaced with a D-STAR repeater, but it's not clear if it's fully functional yet. More details can be found at <http://dstar.nharc.org/>

The second rumor was that a **new 2 meter repeater** is going to be installed, on behalf of the Allegheny County EOC, at the site of the new Children's Hospital in Lawrenceville. Supposedly, it will use a repeater pair belonging to the **Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society** (currently dormant but already allocated and coordinated), and that after it is operational, **the Allegheny County ARES/RACES public service nets will move** from the North Hills ARC W3EXW/R 147.09 MHz repeater to it.

How much of this will turn out to be true, Ye Editor doesn't know. But a look at the **GPVHFS** web site at <http://engrng4.fsheng.pitt.edu/gpvhfs/> takes note of the W3PGH-R, 145.330- Repeater that is associated with the Allegheny County EOC at location & elevation "TBA." Hmmmm...

**The 2007 Western PA Section Convention** is scheduled to be held at the **Skyview Radio Society Swap 'n' Shop**, at their clubhouse in New Kensington, on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Field Day Photos!** Surely there are more Field Day photos out there... none have come our way from the CW operation, and we **know** that some were taken there! If you still have Field Day photos — from the club operations, or your own, or from a site you visited — forward them to Ye Editor and we'll make room for them in next month's issue!

Meanwhile, you can find more photos from those scattered throughout this newsletter over on the club web site at [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**WASHNet Rosters** haven't come our way yet. As soon as they do, they'll be in the next newsletter. Honest!

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2007 Today! Membership Application on Page 9!



# Minutes, June 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Ron Notarius W3WN, Acting Secretary, **WASH**

Randy N3ZK, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:04 hours. There were 29 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):** No report. A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the May meeting as published in the June newsletter. Dick N3QMV motioned and Rich N3SBF, seconded. The motion was voted on and passed.

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** Next VE session is July 19<sup>th</sup>.

**QSL Manager (N3ZNI):** Cards still incoming!

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

**Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB):** No report.

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** No report.

**Ways and Means (KB3GMN):** There will be a 50/50 after the meeting. "Give me the money!"

**Public Service (N3RDV/N3IDH):** No report.

**Contests & Activities (K3VX):** Field Day to be discussed last. IARU Contest coming up next month.

**Quartermaster (K3HCR):** The club's gear is in order and ready for Field Day.

**Newsletter (W3WN):** June's out, all is well.

**President's Report (N3ZK):** Tower trailer a big hit at Breezeshooter's, it will be at Field Day. Randy presented the signs and banners for the trailer that will be installed in time for Field Day. The Skyview RS shack took a bad lightning strike that caused a lot of damage, donations welcomed.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Good of the Order:**

- Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix July 14th & 15th. Corky needs a few more operators. Bob W3RJM inquired about a special event station and volunteered to make the arrangements and run the station.
- Paul NØVLR talked about the BeaveRun aspect of the PVGP.
- Glen KE7FD briefly discussed N3OVL's new tower in Dormont with remote control switching to raise/lower the tower
- Bob W3RJM talked on CQ's good product review of the Ten-Tec Orion 2
- Randy N3ZK raised \$1350 in his MS Bike Ride last month
- Paul NØVLR inquired about the future status of the repeaters when Pete N3RNX leaves town, would like to know who's going to take care of them

**Field Day 2007 (K3VX):**

- We'll be using Phone at Satellite at the AAAP Observatory, CW & Digital at Shelter 9. Both stations have plenty of equipment and antennas but need more operators, especially overnights. Directions to the site are located on the club and Mingo Park web sites.
- Ensuing discussions covered details on what equipment was going to be allocated where. Additional equipment loans were offered by many club members.
- K3VX, W3WH, W9UK, WO3Z, W3WN, W3RJM & Robbie, and KB3PHJ were on the volunteer list for the CW station.
- N3ZK, KE7FD, K3HCR, W3LE, KB3HVN, W8LEV, KB3ORR and others expected to be at the SSB station.
- The GOTA station will be at the SSB site due to the expected public for the joint effort with AAAP.
- Carol KB3GMN discussed the food situation, where the cooking was going to be done, and asked people to email her and tell her what they were bringing.
- Mark N3RDV discussed the ice situation.
- 146.52 will be used for talk-in for any late arrivals over the weekend.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Bill, W3WH, and seconded by Bob, W3RJM; the motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:06.

# WASH Spotlight: Montana



"I came across this sign on Montana Highway 83 on 29 May 2007.

I didn't expect to see Amateur Radio in this area near Flathead Lake!"

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2007 Dick Barney N3QMV

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**

## 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 Fiinleyville, 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	N3DFK	W3SRL	WASH /MM	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3IVW	N3FB	W3VFA	KA3UPY	
AE3DL	KB3IVX	N3FPF	W3WH	WASH GA	
K3EED	KB3KOT	N3HKQ	W3WN	K3OL	K3EED
(Cindy)	KB3KQY	N3IDH	W4ZE	KB3IJX	(George)
K3HCR	KB3NSG	N3PN	W8LEV	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3LGM	KB3NVL	N3QMV	WA3JPP	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3SGT	KB3NVM	N3RDV	WA4ONC	WASH NY	N3FZ
K3VX	KB3PHJ	N3RNX	WB4GCS	KE3XB	N3KEH
K3WJL	KB3ORR	N3SBF	WO3Z	N3YPB	N3OBD
KA3TWI	KC4WTT	N3ZEL	Woody	WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3DCO	KE7FD	N3ZK	Eicker	N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3FNM	KN3A	N3ZNI	Jane	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMN	NØVLR	N9OKM	Wagner	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3GMP	NØWPV	W3BC		WASH VI	
KB3GMU	N2QIV	W3JJC		NP2JF	
KB3HFP	N3AWF	W3LE			
KB3HVN	N3BPB	W3RJM			
KB3IAC	N3CZZ	W3RWS			

Through July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

## PVGP Racing & Pink Flamingos

Ron Notarius W3WN

It's almost hard to believe that this year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. I can still recall Dave KQ3T and Barry Kaplan (now KB3GKT) discussing the details for the original, Saturday only event... which is why I missed the first one, since someone had to work at *Westech Electronics* that day! I also missed a few other race weekends in subsequent years, when I had to work on a Sunday, but I've made about 21 of the previous 25 events. And had a blast every year.

I also learned the importance that Amateur Radio can play at an event like this... and why we should always, always, watch our words on the air. You never know who's listening...

For the last 15 years or so, my position at the race has been what is now Flag Corner 18, at the intersection (during non race weekends) of East Circuit and Serpentine, alongside the golf course in Schenley Park. For all the time I've been there, the SCCA corner workers there, in addition to many of us "locals," have been primarily a bunch of total lunatics from the Washington, DC area known as "Team Tachy" — a play on Tachometer, of course. With a name like that, naturally, their mascot had to be one of the "tackiest" things known to mankind... the lawn ornament known as the Pink Flamingo.

Corner 18 is known to the drivers as the Flamingo Flag for a very good reason. 18 will be covered with Pink Flamingos. There will be a big stuffed one (named Kenny, he was one at Kennywood Park) hanging from a tree, and a slew of them scattered, safely, on the jersey barriers, hay bales, and anywhere else. When drivers had to pull into the safety area behind the barricades at 18, they used to be presented with a Pink Flamingo sticker for their racing helmets from Rose, the corner captain — a Druid High Priestess to boot (I have her business card), or her husband Abe (SK). I knew from the first day on this corner that this was the place for me... I went out to South Hills Village that night and bought a Flamingo ornamental flag to drape on my car the next day, and that's when they knew I was one of "them" — and I've been accepted there ever since. And when Rose "retired" from the corner due to health, she entrusted me with several of her birds, some of which I still have (most were confiscated the next year by another worker's daughter, but at least the whole plastic flock is together again!)

As the years have gone by, many members of Team Tachy have assumed Corner Captain duties at other spots, so now, you'll likely see Flamingos from Corners 15 through 19A — and beyond. But I digress...

One thing that every Amateur Radio operator at 18 learns very quickly is to be very, very careful when describing anything to do with our plastic friends on the air. The reason why is a true story:

Seems that many years ago (before I joined the corner), a race car brushed a hay bale during one race. One of the flamingos displayed on that bale got knocked onto the course and was slightly damaged. Dutifully, the radio operator at 18 called in to Able (Race Control) to report debris on the track. When they asked what type of debris, Able was told that one of the flamingos had been "hurt." Naturally — and keep in mind that the Able ops are "in" on the Flamingo situation at 18 — further comments about the state of the poor bird went back and forth. Everyone had a good chuckle, and the race went on.

But the very next day, the PVGP people started hearing from the public.

Seems that one of the local radio stations (which one I don't know) was monitoring race frequency and overheard the whole "injured flamingo" exchange. It got out on the media the next day that a Flamingo had escaped from the Highland Park Zoo, somehow managed to travel unnoticed into Schenley Park, wandered onto the race track, and was hit and killed by a race car! Animal lovers across Pittsburgh, being what they were, and not knowing the full story, started calling to protest the callous death of a poor zoo creature!

So if you happen to be listening to PVGP Race Frequency July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, when Kenny inevitably breaks his rope and falls down onto the grass (he does it at least once every year), you'll also notice that the amateur operators at 18 will be very, very careful when they describe the incident to Able!

Remember: You never know WHO is listening!



The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS N3SH/WA3SH**, and the **Steel City Amateur Radio Club W3KWH**, will join forces to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. Members will operate a Special Event Station from the Steel City club house on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, using the call sign **W3P**. The hours of the event with are 1500 Z to 2200 Z each day.

This will be occurring at the same time other hams from the area are providing vital communications for the Grand Prix at the track. Amateur Radio Operators from the Pittsburgh area and beyond have been volunteering their time and equipment all 25 years of the Grand Prix to provide this uncompensated service. All together more than 250 hams from the area will be providing free service to the Grand Prix to help make it a success.

**W3P** is expected to operate on 20 and 40 meters, other bands as warranted. Specific frequencies to be decided.

A color certificate will be available to all hams that contact **W3P** during the event. This event has been publicized on the internet and local media.

QSL **W3P** via Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI.

Additional information is available from Bob McCloskey W3RJM via his Email address, [W3RJM@comcast.net](mailto:W3RJM@comcast.net)



# Letter to the Editor

## Field Day 2007

submitted June 25<sup>th</sup> by Bill Hill W3WH

"When it stops being fun, go home." Kevin Smith said this over the weekend and it really helped me put Field Day into perspective. This year we managed to put more than 1400 Q's into the log. That's a substantial increase over last year when the log showed 1000 Q's. On the surface one would say that we had a great year but did we?

Along the way quite a few people expressed their displeasure with the way this year's effort was progressing. Months ago we decided to locate at the Observatory at Mingo Creek Park. We tried to get Shelter #10 which is adjacent to the Observatory but it was spoken for so Rick Bell was successful in getting us Shelter #9 which is about 1/2 mile from the Observatory. This was looked upon as a good thing because we could finally solve the adjacent rig interference issue. Wonderful!

Well sort of. this development meant we would be set up separately. Quite a few people didn't like the separation situation but it did help us get 1400 Q's. We have to ask ourselves for next time which is more important-score or being together. Now that we've had some experience, we should be able to make that decision as a group for the future.

Because lots of the public were expected at the Observatory, I suggested that we have our meals at Shelter #9 to avoid any possible embarrassment from not being able to feed everyone who happened to be there. Well I guess it wasn't a good idea because nobody showed up in Siberia (Shelter #9) and the result we were really two separate efforts. That's really a shame.

While I'm on the soap box, we all owe a BIG "thank you" to Larry, Carol, Randy and others for the effort they put into getting Field Day organized so that many of us could just show up on Saturday and enjoy the fruits of their efforts.

Some folks came to Field Day and left shortly thereafter when they didn't find things to their liking. The lesson here is that you can't expect people to drop everything the moment you arrive and since this is a group event not everything will be organized and conducted the way you would do it.

My final thoughts are these. I hope at the end of the day we all "had fun" (I know I did ) but if you want things to be different, you'll need to participate in the planning and work that goes on in preparing for this kind of event.

73, Bill W3WH



Photos above and right are courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



The Six N3SH Field Day photos below courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007 Dan McCann KB3HVN





## WASH Classifieds

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## FCC News

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

Newington, CT, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 — Earlier this week, the FCC filed its reply brief with the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The FCC attempted to rebut the ARRL's challenge to the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules enacted in late 2004 & affirmed by the agency in 2006. According to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, "The FCC's brief does not accurately describe ARRL's arguments concerning harmful interference."



Given what is in essence a 100 percent probability of interference from BPL systems to fixed & mobile HF facilities at significant distances from power lines, Imlay said Section 301 of the Communications Act does not allow unlicensed BPL systems to operate in the HF bands. "Basically, Section 301 says you can not operate a radio frequency emitting device without a license. The legislative purpose of Section 301 is clearly to avoid interference. FCC's Part 15 rules have assumed that certain very low power devices & systems can operate without predictable interference, thus allowing them to operate without a license, notwithstanding Section 301. But with BPL, the FCC has ignored conclusive record evidence which shows that there will be, & in fact our experience conclusively demonstrates, that BPL causes severe interference to licensed services," Imlay said.

The FCC claims that it has the authority to permit unlicensed BPL under Section 302 of the Act; this section allows the FCC to regulate the interference potential of RF devices. What Section 302 does not do, Imlay said, is to create a loophole in, or modify, or invalidate Section 301.

"It is the ARRL's position," Imlay said, "that the FCC can regulate & authorize BPL with certain safeguards, consistent with the terms of Section 301. However, the FCC simply cannot honestly maintain the position that BPL has an inherently low interference potential. It has a high interference potential, & the rules they have enacted to date are woefully inadequate & insufficient to address it". The ARRL has long maintained that BPL, when not adequately "notched," causes harmful interference to Amateur Radio operations. In its brief, the FCC claims BPL does not cause significant interference & the Courts must defer to the FCC's expertise to decide this issue.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "The FCC misrepresents the ARRL's position as being that the FCC has no authority to allow unlicensed devices that pose any risk whatsoever of causing interference to licensed services. That's not our position at all. Our position is that the FCC possessed clear evidence, at the time it made its BPL decisions, that the limits it was adopting would allow the deployment of BPL systems with a near-100 percent probability of causing harmful interference to radio receivers hundreds of feet from the power lines. Yet, despite this evidence it characterized the likelihood of harmful interference as 'low.'"

The brief goes on to say that, in the FCC's view, mobile stations & fixed stations are protected against harmful interference from BPL. But with respect to mobile stations complaining of interference, the FCC requires only that BPL operators reduce the radiated emission levels to 20 dB below the Part 15 maximum levels for radiated emissions. This, in the HF bands, still permits BPL noise at levels that preclude communications entirely. It offers mobile stations no protection whatsoever, Imlay stated.

Sumner explained, "The FCC claims that it continues to protect mobile stations from harmful interference, but it does so simply by defining whatever interference a mobile station might encounter from a notched BPL system as not harmful! None of the steps to limit the interference potential of BPL systems that the FCC took in this rulemaking proceeding reduce the likelihood of interference to the amateur service, & to this day the FCC has declined to enforce its rules even when protracted violations & interference have been documented."

FCC's brief also attempted to justify its presumption that a BPL radiated interfering signal decays at a rate of 40 dB per decade of distance. "A 'decade of distance' is a factor of 10," Imlay explained. "For example, if a victim receiver moves from 3-30 feet from the power lines (10 times further away), that is one decade of distance. For each decade of distance, the FCC believes that there is a 40 dB signal decay. In the HF bands, however, the evidence in the record shows that the signal decay is closer to 20 dB than 40 dB per decade of distance from the power lines. The FCC's brief claimed that there was conflicting evidence on the subject, but ARRL's view is that the FCC merely avoided consideration of the overwhelming evidence favoring the more conservative decay factor."

Imlay said the ARRL has asked the Court to order the FCC to "rethink the rules governing BPL & for the first time to take into account the evidence on the record concerning harmful interference to Amateur Radio." ARRL's reply brief is due for filing with the Court July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

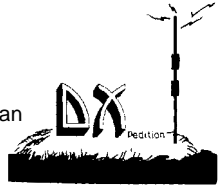


# More N3SH Field Day 2007 Photos

courtesy of & ©Copyright 2007 Dan McCann KB3HVN



# DX News Briefs



The Radio Amateur Society of Thailand will activate **HSØAC** for the IARU Contest on 14—15 July. They plan to operate "all bands and modes." Also, **E21EIC** will be operating in the IARU under his own call "to build up 'points' for future contests — HSØZCW

**K7BV** will be QRV as **V3/K7BV** from Caye Caulker 7—17 July. He will focus on 6 meters, and on HF when 6 isn't open. QSL via W1JJ — K7BV

**YM1907FB** will be a special event station celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fenerbahce Sports Club, from 19 July through 02 August. TA3J plans to be QRV on 160—10 & 2 meters. More information available at <http://www.qsl.net/ta3j/ym1907fb> QSL via TA3YJ — TA3YJ

**A QSL Manager's Request:** "Please don't be offended if this does not apply to you, but as a manager, I get around 20 direct cards EVERY day. Not a lot I guess compared with Steve KU9C and others but I guess the same applies.

It is surprising how many cards I get either just stamped like a postcard or in an envelope without a return envelope or any form of postage. Please do NOT be offended if I return these cards via the buro. If you expect a direct reply, please have the courtesy to include a self addressed envelope (sometimes I cannot read your writing and the address on your card is NOT always correct) and please include sufficient funds to respond directly either by the use of the IRC or even green stamps.

There may be some new hams out there desperate to receive a QSL but haven't given the matter sufficient thought." — GM4FDM

"I have created a web site (**blog** actually) at <http://www.dx-is.com/news> designed to be a central and free distribution point for DX news. The type of content intended would be:

- DXpedition announcements (new announcements, updates, etc.)
- Stories of DXpeditions
- General news stories related to happenings in rare DX locations

The benefit of a blog is that you can point your favorite browser that supports RSS (like Firefox) to the RSS feed and the news headlines is delivered to your browser, so you don't have to visit the web page to view the headlines. Alternatively you can use an RSS reader, to gather the news. Additional benefits of this being in a blog is that it keeps a copy of each post for historical purposes, which means at any point in time you can go search the archives for previous posts.

You must register to be able to post, and when you register, please use your CALLSIGN as your username. Each new user will be able to Write a Post. Once you write the post, click SAVE and it will be saved as draft. A moderator will review the content and then publish it. The best part is — this service is FREE to use!" — K4UJ

## QSL Routes

3V8SF via IZ8CCW — W2IRT  
 4L3Y via DK6CW — K1SEZ  
 5R8FL via G3SWH — DO1DXX  
 7Q7AM via NU5O — DO1DXX  
 9Q1TB via SM5DQC — DO1DXX  
 9UØX via DJ6SI — K8QM  
 C21HC via DL9HCU — JJ1BDX  
 CM6CAC via EA5KB — K1YR  
 CX7TT via K5WW — W2IRT  
 DT7A via HL2FDW — W4DN  
 EA9EU via EA5KB — K1YR  
 EX2M via W3HNC — N2ZN  
 GBØSH via MWØJZE — DO1DXX  
 GM3SHK via G3SHK — N7XY  
 HGØHQ via HA6NY — DO1DXX  
 HIØC via ON4IQ — ON4QX  
 IAØIPY via IØYKN — DO1DXX  
 J68WI via WB5ZAM — F1JKJ  
 J8/W6JKV via W6JKV — K8SIX  
 KHØN via JA6CNL — JA1HGY

MN1SWL via GI4NKB — K1YR  
 N8S via YU1DX — EA6BH  
 NP4A via W3HNC — W2IRT  
 OX6ØAD via OX3UR — DO1DXX  
 T2ØHC via DL8HCU — JJ1BDX  
 T9ØT via T98U — T93Y  
 TL8QC via F5NRY — DO1DXX  
 UN3M via EA7FTR — K1SEZ  
 V26RN via K3TRM — V26RN  
 VFØX via VE3IKV — VFØX  
 VK9DNX via DJ2MX — K3WI  
 VP2EREM via WB2REM — VP2EREM  
 VP8DIZ via G7KMZ — GM4UZY  
 VP8KF via G3VPW — N2ZN  
 VU7RG via N2OO — W4DN  
 XT2C via F9IE — DO1DXX  
 XU7MDY via OH4MDY — K1YR  
 YK1BA via N5FF — K3WI  
 YO3APJ direct only — W9OL  
 ZL2PR via JJ8DEN — JJ1BDX

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





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Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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:

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Dues subject to change without notice

# Inside This Issue:

- Field Day 2007 Pictures!
  - New WPA SEC Appointed!
  - Have You Participated in the Atlantic Division Survey yet?
  - **W3P** to be QRV during the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix!
  - Ever wonder what the significance to Amateur Radio a **Pink Flamingo** has?
- All this & much more... waiting for you right inside... these pages!!**



## Remember the Woodpecker?

DUGA-3, the decommissioned Soviet Over The Horizon RADAR array outside Chernobyl, that was operational from July 1976 until December 1989.

“The white cages appear to be the primary elements, with feed horns (the pipes) leading from them to the back of the array (left). A backplane reflector of small wires can just be seen left of center, most clearly at the bottom of the image.”

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

## The WASHRag

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