



PA PRB-1 Status

Saturday, July 28th — Just received a call from State Representative Watson, and the House now has the bill for the State in the hopper. The number is HB-1777. Along with the Senate SB-884

This will allow the state to mirror the federal PRB-1 limited pre-emption for hams to put up antenna support structures.

Please let all of the hams in the Commonwealth know about this.

— 73 George Brechmann N3HBT

Just a little more info:

Now, I don't know the exact text of HB1777, and as of early this morning, it was not online yet; but, it will *PROBABLY* be almost the same as the Senate version.

For some reason the html seems to get a little scrambled, so we'll use the shorter version:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>

and enter "hb1777", click "GO", then click on the "text" link on the page that follows.

To find your state representative, use the link below.:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>

Enter your zip code in the upper right-hand corner of the page, then click "GO." If you do not know your "plus four" designation, you can follow the link to find it. But, in most cases, it isn't necessary. (Editor's Note: You can find it out from <http://www.usps.gov>)

If I learn more, I'll post it.

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

October Boy Scout Camporee?

Larry Comden K3VX

Tom Wilson of the Mon Valley District Boy Scouts asked me if WASH would like to participate in the Camporee scheduled for Oct 19-21 (Fri-Sun).

This weekend is between the PA QSO Party and the AMSAT Symposium.

The Mon Valley District has not decided on a location yet. They have used Mingo Creek Park and other county/municipal parks in the past.

It looks like there are (at least) three ways to handle this

1. Treat this as a mini Field Day on Saturday, Sunday or both in order to introduce the scouts to ham radio;
2. Go all out for Merit Badge training in addition to #1;
3. Decline the invitation

Or what ? - your thoughts please.

We are invited to camp out with them, too.

They feed their guests very well!

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Next Meeting: August 9th, 2007

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

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!

More Field Day Pictures



All courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007 Larry Comden K3VX



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 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 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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test October 18th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, October 18th, 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

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 17th, 2008
 Thursday, April 17th, 2008
 (tentative) Thursday, July 17th, 2008
 Thursday, October 16th, 2008

Due to some extremely high inbound traffic concerns, the arrl.net e-mail forwarding service is experiencing some problems. The system is not processing outbound e-mail at its usual speed, causing some delivery delays.

The ARRL IT team is investigating the problem and is preparing changes to enable the system to handle such a traffic increase of this size in the future. They hope to have the service back to normal just as soon as possible.

July 19th VE Test Results

We had 2 candidates:

- Richie N3SBF tried for his Extra, decided to study a bit more and come back next month.
- Colin Humphries, late of the UK, passed both the Tech and General exams and is now KB3PNE. He's been interested in becoming a ham for quite a number of years.

Thanks to Bill KB3LIX, Droopy W3JJC, and Ed N3ZNI, our VEs.

— Jacqué N3ZEL

To: All **WASHNet** Net Controls:

Here I am again, late with the NCS schedule. This summer has been a non-stop merry-go-round for me and Peg and it does not stop until November. Please look this schedule over and let me know of any conflicts.

Thanks again for participating as a net control station. If you can't make a net, please try to get someone to take your place. Remember that Dave DeMotte N3IDH is usually willing to take a net as a substitute.

Finally please send me a copy of the check-ins as I am trying to develop a database. I would prefer the data in Excel, but I will take it anyway you want to send it.

— Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Net Manager

A cool, clear, bright morning — and no broken water mains on Route 88 for a change — beamed **the WASH Breakfast Gang** July 28th to **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month, room was mad for K3HCR, W3VFA, K3VX, W3WH, W3WN, N3FB, KB3FZU, KB3GMU, KB3FNM & Mary Lou, and K3SGT & Barb. Discussion topics, along with hot coffee and plenty of toast, included Durango CO repeaters (accessible only three weeks a year?), post hold digging, augers, Inverted "L" antennas, air conditioning, WPXI's new studios & "leaving the nuns" behind, cell tower locations, the AMSAT Symposium, milling the highways, water tanks, building renovations, remote bases, verticals and radials, flag pole antennas, and the new VP2M airport & it's short runway... and much more, but we ran out of notepaper!.

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, Saturday, August 25th, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road / Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. (Someone will need to take notes for Ye Editor, he has a family wedding to go to that day!) See you there!

SK: Many club members and other newsletter readers who've participated in the Vintage Grand Prix over the years got to know John Capen, the Corner Captain at Corner 18. John is well known in SCCA circles as one of the people responsible for training a significant portion of the SCCA Flag Crew members at the PVGP and other events — somewhere around half. John was a good friend, a potential amateur (he was interested but always busy with racing events), always thought extremely well of the amateur operators at the event every year, and was my source for the details on the Pink Flamingo story that ran last month. So I was really looking forward to seeing him again this year, and braced for a gruff, good natured lecture on the facts I didn't quite remember right. Sadly, we learned this year that John lost his battle with pancreatic cancer last January. He will be sorely missed. And — there's a move afoot to have Corner 18 renamed as *Capen's Corner* in his honor and memory.

Randy N3ZK has been pretty busy since Field Day ended. A pool and a tower in his back yard now! Hmmm, maybe we should rethink the club picnic... anyway, Randy's column should be back next month!

Jim WB4GCS (who's also making great progress on his tower) wants everyone to know that there's a great resource for information on microwave communications at <http://www.k5rmg.org>

Mark N3RDV wants Win-EQF users to know that the latest patch for Version 1.92 is now out at <http://www.eqf-software.com/pages.cfm?ID=17#contents>

Ben KB3ERQ is getting very interested in the Ubuntu distribution of Linux. Anyone who's interested in working with him on this should give him a buzz; W3WN has a few extra Ubuntu CD's for interested club members!

WASHNet 2007 NCS Schedule

07/22 - Kevin N3HKQ	10/28 - Frank N3FB
07/29 - Bill W3WH	11/04 - Hank KB3FNM
08/05 - Dave N3DFK	11/11 - Paul NØVLR
08/12 - Harold K3HCR	11/18 - Kevin N3HKQ
08/19 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	11/25 - Dave N3DFK
08/26 - Frank N3FB	12/02 - Bill W3WH
09/02 - Hank KB3FNM	12/09 - Kevin N3HKQ
09/09 - Paul NØVLR	12/16 - Harold K3HCR
09/16 - Dave N3DFK	12/23 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
09/23 - Kevin N3HKQ	12/30 - Frank N3FB
09/30 - Bill W3WH	01/06 - Hank KB3FNM
10/07 - Hank KB3FNM	01/13 - Paul NØVLR
10/14 - Harold K3HCR	Alternates
10/21 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	Dave N3IDH Ron W3WN

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

Minutes, July 12th Meeting

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

Paul, NØVLR, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:05 hours. There were 24 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the June meeting as published in the June newsletter was made by Carol, KB3GMN and seconded by Larry, K3VX. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): No report.

Secretary (N3FB): Frank presented a thank you letter that he had drafted to be sent to the Astronomers Club. He asked what we had done at previous Field Days when clubs had made their facilities available to us. There was discussion and Bob, W3RJM, motioned that a donation be made to Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh for allowing us to use their site for Field Day operations. Jim, WB4GCS, seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed with one dissenter.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session is one week from today. VEs should contact Jacque, N3ZEL, to let her know they will be there.

Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB): Pete reports that the 2m is operating at status quo. Paul then read us a letter from Pete, informing us of his decision to move and offering his repeaters to the club. Bob, W3RJM, motioned and Harold, K3HCR, seconded to make Pete, N3RNX, a life member of the club. The motion was voted on and passed.

Frank reports that the N3FB repeater is working as is the N3SH Digi. Power bills were presented to the club and will be forwarded to Mark.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Kevin will post the new schedule soon. Frank, N3FB, will take the next net this weekend. Contact Kevin if you would like your name added to the schedule as a NCS operator.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): Carol said that there will be a 50/50 after the meeting.

Public Service (N3RDV): Dave, N3IDH, told us about the Labor Day run & walk in Washington - help is needed. The Grand Prix is also in need of operators this weekend. The Great Race is being held two weeks after Labor Day and is in need of operators.

Bob, W3RJM, is operating W3P from the Steel City Club's Shack and is looking for operators. He is going to have pictures from past races printed as the QSL card. In the past he has been able to get 1,000 printed for about \$200. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Contests (K3VX): This weekend is the world radio teen championship.

Newsletter (W3WN): The July newsletter went out.

Quartermaster (K3HCR): Harold printed and passed out a list of the club's equipment.

President's Report (N3ZK): Presented by Paul, NØVLR. The forums section on the web site will be discontinued due to inactivity. Nick, WA3NB, announced a while ago - via the repeater - that the N3SH call sign was going to expire in 3 days. As a result of some quick action, Randy, N3ZK, is now the trustee of the club's call sign at Steve's, W3SRL, request. It was asked by the group that we check all 3 call signs to be sure that they are in order. Randy's tower is cemented and sturdy. He plans on putting 4 sections up.

Old Business: AMSAT - Kevin, N3HKQ, passed around a sheet with the jobs and times needed for manpower at the symposium. He then walked through a description of the job functions.

Patty, KC4WTT, announced that the 7th & 28th of August at 7 PM would be additional AMSAT planning meetings. Georgianne, KB3LIV, passed around some sample shirts that will be sold as event shirts and staff shirts. Prices will be in the \$40 neighborhood. On the amsat.org web page there is a link to the symposium website.

There was a discussion of the past Field Day effort. It was expressed that we should run the operation from a common area. If we work with the astronomers again, we could reserve pavilion #10, or some other point in the park with adjacent antennas. Bill, W3WH, pointed out that we need more participation in the planning stages.

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 8)

WASH Spotlight: PVGP 2007



Paul Lusardi NØVLR and the Crew at the 2007 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Safety Flag Corner 13

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2007 Paul Lusardi NØVLR

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron 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	N3CZZ	W3RWS	WASH /MM	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3IVW	N3DFK	W3SRL	KA3UPY	
AE3DL	KB3IVX	N3FB	W3VFA	WASH GA	
K3EED	KB3KOT	N3FPF	W3WH	K3OL	K3EED
(Cindy)	KB3KQY	N3HKQ	W3WN	KB3IJX	(George)
K3HCR	KB3NSG	N3IDH	W4ZE	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3LGM	KB3NVL	N3PN	W8LEV	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3SGT	KB3NVM	N3QMV	WA3JPP	WASH NY	N3FZ
K3VX	KB3PHJ	N3RDV	WA3RVD	KE3XB	N3KEH
K3WJL	KB3PNE	N3RNX	WA4ONC	N3YPB	N3OBD
KA3TWI	KB3ORR	N3SBF	WB4GCS	WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3DCO	KC4WTT	N3ZEL	WO3Z	N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3FNM	KE7FD	N3ZK	Woody	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMN	KN3A	N3ZNI	Eicker	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3GMP	NØVLR	N9OKM	Jane	Jane Wagner	
KB3GMU	NØWPV	W3BC	Wagner		
KB3HFP	N2QIV	W3JJC		WASH VI	
KB3HVN	N3AWF	W3LE		NP2JF	
KB3IAC	N3BPB	W3RJM			

Through August 1st, 2007

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Old Glory Offers the Answer!

Bill Hill W3WH

As some of you know I live in a townhouse plan. For the past 7 years I've been lucky enough to have vacant land behind the house where I've had numerous antennas-most of which have worked reasonably well. I have 260 "countries" worked from this QTH. My home is located about 2 miles as the crow flies from the new Casino and the soon to be Tanger Outlet Shops. I've heard rumblings that the land behind the house may be developed for housing. OUCH!!!! That would mean that my current antennas would have to come down. Not a happy thought.

For the Memorial Day Holiday I decided to display our flag off of my deck and since then I've grown to like it enough to keep it up. Sometime between now and then I remembered that Force 12 sells a Flagpole antenna. I looked into it and ordered one, which I installed one weekend in July. I thought why not try one; if it works I won't have to worry if I lose my "antenna farm" property.

I bought the 16' version with two extra sections for a total of 24' which I am feeding through a SGC-239 tuner (the club has two of these). I'm not finished since I only have six radials at the moment and I want to add quite a few more.

Since I tried it out for the first time I've had qso's on 4 bands (80-20) and have worked easily into Europe (1AØKM and others), Asia (Turkey) and Africa (Botswana). I guess the point here is that if you have antenna restriction either CC&R's, or XYL, or if you would like a dual function addition to your property the Force 12 Flagpole is worth considering. Cost delivered is a bit under \$300.

By The Way: A couple of neighbors have said they like it. Even if it didn't work very well that's a victory these days!



ARRL Files Federal Court of Appeals Reply Brief Over BPL

ARRL Web Extra Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

On July 31st, the ARRL filed its reply brief at the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. This brief follows the FCC's brief that attempted to rebut the ARRL's challenge to the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules enacted in late 2004 and 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." The ARRL, in its reply brief, accuses the FCC of, "engaging in misdirection -- rebutting hyperbolic arguments ARRL never made, refusing to address the precedents ARRL cited and attempting to rewrite the *Orders* as if they made factual rather than legal determinations."

The League's reply brief, according to Imlay, "focuses largely on the FCC's unprecedented failure to protect mobile stations from interference if the BPL operator reduces its radiated emissions by 20 dB below the Part 15 maxima, even if harmful interference persists thereafter. The reply brief also addresses the inapplicability of the 40 dB per decade of distance extrapolation factor applied to BPL system measurements in the high frequency bands."

The ARRL's reply brief looked at four main points:

- The FCC's failure to reconcile the *Orders* with the FCC's decades-old interpretation of Section 301.
- The FCC's failure to justify its nondisclosures of portions of the studies on which the *Orders* were expressly based.
- The FCC's failure to justify its refusal to consider contrary evidence, as well as a proposed alternative to its extrapolation factor for measuring interference.
- The FCC's failure to justify its summary dismissal of an alternative that could have accommodated BPL without causing the same harmful interference.

FCC Refuses to Enforce Section 301

Mobile Operations

The ARRL's brief states that this case "is about an unlicensed operator's legal duty to cease harmful interference once it arises, not the standard for authorizing unlicensed transmissions."

For decades, the FCC has interpreted Section 301 to mandate two restrictions on unlicensed operators: The proposed operations will not have a significant potential for causing harmful interference, and; if harmful interference does occur, the unlicensed operations are to cease immediately. For the first time ever, the FCC excluded mobile operators from the second part of the mandate.

The FCC suggests in its brief that BPL emissions (that are reduced by the 10 or 20 dB that are the minimum notching requirements in the rules) will "never cause harmful interference to licensed mobile users, but there is no evidence to support this," the ARRL's brief states. The ARRL contends the FCC's brief "ignore[s] the express acknowledgement in the *Reconsideration Order* that 'harmful interference...may occur' even when BPL systems meet the FCC's technical standards and that when it occurs 'we will not provide further protection to mobile operations.'"

The FCC goes on to say, according to the ARRL's brief, that licensed mobile users "do not need the protection of the cease-operations rule because mobile users suffering from interference can move elsewhere." The ARRL contends that the FCC "has never before put the burden on the *license-holder* to move away from an unlicensed interferer, to the contrary, its rules require the interferer to cease interfering immediately. A BPL system deploys radiation-emitting devices *ubiquitously* throughout a service area, making it difficult to avoid harmful interference and impossible to conclude that harmful interference will 'never' occur."

Unintentional Radiators

The ARRL's brief states that "the FCC cites nothing to defend the *Reconsideration Order's* ruling that Section 301 is inapplicable to 'unintentional radiators.'"

(ARRL Brief Continued on page 8)

Letters to the Editor

More On Field Day 2007 submitted July 11th by Jim Sanford WB4GCS

I just read and enjoyed (as usual!!!) the latest WashRAG. Thanks Ron, and all those who submitted photos.

Bill's comments about Field Day got me thinking. Since I'm one who commented on the site arrangements, I wish to elaborate on MY comments.

1. I HAD FUN! Which is why I spent more time out there than I had promised, due to domestic concern about "things" which kept me from Dayton.
2. I remain impressed with the fact that in TWO YEARS the tower trailer went from a "we ought to do this" discussion to REALITY. (And I have used this story within AMSAT to let folks know why they should come to Symposium, and as an example of the fund-raising which can be done by a small, active group.)
3. The tower trailer made the satellite station setup, adjustment, and tear down the easiest I can remember, ever. As I recall, I made two trips up the tower . . . er along the (lowered) tower to make adjustments. The ability to do this kind of thing easily really helped our satellite effort.
4. This demanding but not huge test for the tower trailer provided an excellent opportunity to collect and document lessons learned.
5. A little known byproduct of the satellite effort was several vhf/uhf contacts, which include another bonus.
6. I had fun making satellite contacts. Next year, I need to do less of that, and more helping OTHER people make satellite contacts. I deeply regret not tumbling to this sooner.
7. I missed participating with CW. I'm not very good, but sure do enjoy it on the satellites (LEOs are too hard, but P3E and Eagle will restore this) and I enjoy it at Field Day.
8. I regret not spending more time with the CW group. It was certainly not out of pique or any dissatisfaction with the setup, I was just too busy to get over there until Sunday morning, and couldn't stay long enough to matter. My problem, no one else's.
9. The 1400 contacts is the best Field Day effort I've ever been associated with, save one. (A large group in VA ran a 3A station + novice + satellite one year. This was the last FD for AO-13, and after I'd worked everybody on the bird (SSB), I moved down to the CW band and started over. Took 5 minutes to make the first contact, then I was the guy being called in the pileup. Made 2 to 3 Q's per minute at 2 points each, until the end of the contest. What a blast! The generator guy came over and beat on us over the way we were torquing the generator, making it dance -- 160 watt 70cm amp on the uplink. Threw a dead battery on the buss as a "surge absorber". Meanwhile, a friend, his wife, and 1 other made a concerted effort to get 1000 Qs on 40m SSB, and just barely did. The WASH effort this year parallels that one, with the difference in the number of Qs being mostly propagation and no HEO satellite, in my opinion.)
10. I commented that winning the party is more important to me than winning the contest. The social aspects of Field Day are an important (to me) part of that. Pulling off the kind of effort we did this year and getting the 1400 Qs and the bonus points we did is ALSO part of winning the party.
11. My comments regarding the site were intended to be comments, observations, and a summary of some detailed suggestions I'd discussed with Randy for next year. My comments should not be considered criticism of ANYONE. I wouldn't criticize, and have no right to, particularly given the zero effort I put into FD before showing up at the event. I honestly think we can achieve the best of both worlds next year, which was the real point of my thinking about it and making suggestions.

Again, I HAD FUN -- LOTS OF IT!

I am proud, honored, and happy to be associated with this group. I am also grateful for the way you welcomed Patti and me when we "showed up" unannounced, nearly 4 years ago. Thank you all.



WB4GCS,
N3HKQ & others
at the Satellite
Station.



Foreground:
N3HKQ, WB4GCS
Background:
KB3GMU, N3FB

All Field
Day
Photos
this page
courtesy
of and©
Copy-
right
2007
Larry
Comden
K3VX

(I guess now wouldn't be a good time to tell him that the PackRats (Mt. Airy VHF Society) warned us they were coming? — Editor)



Just "sitting
around"

D-STAR Has Arrived In Pittsburgh!

Greg Babin KQ3DX courtesy of the Steel City ARC & Kilowatt Harmonics

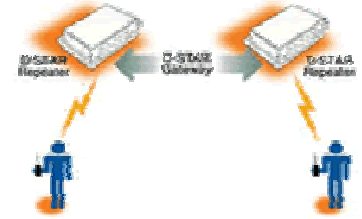
D-STAR. You may have seen the ads in the candy-store catalogs, in the monthly magazines, or on the Internet, but what exactly is it? What can it be used for? Simply put, it is a digital voice and data system utilizing repeaters (or simplex ops) which can be used for local communication, as well as being interfaced with other repeater systems around the world linked via an Internet Gateway.

The D-STAR standard which was published in 2001, resulted from 3 years of research funded by the Japanese government and administered by the JARL (the Japan Amateur Radio League, the ARRL's sister society in Japan) to investigate digital technologies for Amateur Radio. **D-STAR is an open protocol**, meaning it can be implemented by anybody. Systems can be built using commercial equipment, or it can be home-brewed. While at this time, ICOM is the only commercial manufacturer of D-STAR, any manufacturer can start its own D-STAR line of equipment at any time.

In a D-STAR system, D-STAR-equipped radios can communicate directly to each other, with or without the aid of a repeater system. The repeater can operate just like the FM repeaters you are used to using (I.E. for local communications), or they can be connected via an Internet Gateway for communicating across the country/world. The difference between FM and D-STAR is that D-STAR converts a voice transmission to a digital data stream, known as a "codec". The D-STAR codec is known as an AMBE® (Advanced Multiband Excitation). The voice signal is sent at a rate of 3600 bits/second (3.6 kbps).

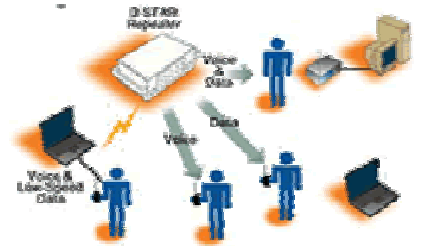
While voice communications are possible on 144, 440 and 1296 MHz, data-only transmissions are limited to the 1296 MHz band at this time. The digital data stream is sent with a bit rate of 128 kbps. Connection from a computer to ICOM's ID-1 1296 MHz voice/data radio can be accomplished via an RS-232 interface or a USB 1.0 connection.

Theoretically, you could connect your computer to the radio and surf the internet while operating mobile. It would be treated just like a wireless modem. Ordinary terminal emulation software (for digital voice), or a web browser (for digital data) would work fine for exchanging data.



So, what's the big deal with D-STAR? Well, for one thing, it takes up MUCH less bandwidth than an ordinary analog FM signal. D-STAR requires only 6 KHz of bandwidth compared to 20 — 30 KHz of an FM signal. As mentioned earlier, repeaters can be linked via the Internet to form a nationwide system, and beyond.

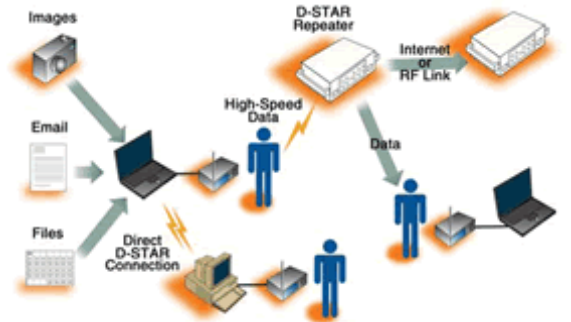
What can D-STAR be used for? Well, for one thing, emergency communications come to mind. Status reports, damage assessments, request for resources take nothing more than a few keystrokes. D-STAR has the capability to combine voice and data into one single channel simultaneously. No longer is there a need for a separate TNC and radio. All you need is to connect your PDA or laptop, and you're ready to go. Also, you can send pictures of damage, weather images back to the command post. E-Mail, file transfer, Internet access are all possible. Currently D-STAR is available in handheld and mobile sized radios, so portability is not a problem.



What does it sound like? Ever hear a computer generated repeater I.D. voice? It sounds just like that but at a MUCH higher fidelity. It sounds just like your voice, but digitized. It's pretty neat!!

Truesies & Falsies about D-STAR:

- **D-STAR requires an upgrade to new equipment: True.** However, D-STAR radios are backwards-compatible with existing FM equipment. In other words, if nothing is shaking on D-STAR, simply dial in your favorite FM repeater frequency and chat like you've always done in the past. However, new D-STAR-only repeaters would be required for use in a D-STAR system. Today's FM repeaters cannot be made compatible. So if you're in the market for a dual-band FM rig, consider spending a little more and get the digital D-STAR capability and be ready when it is deployed here fully in the area.
- **There's no difference between D-STAR and Echolink: False.** Echolink does not support data transmissions. Also D-STAR is 100% digital from the time your voice enters the microphone until it comes out the other guys speaker. Also, only D-STAR can target calls to a SPECIFIC user. Echolink can't.
- **D-STAR is nothing more than fancy packet: False.** VHF Packet is usually 1200 BPS or so. D-STAR simultaneous data and voice is sent at 4800 BPS. Data-only on the 1296 MHz band is sent at 128 KBPS.
- **D-STAR data will work only on the 1296 MHz band: False.** Low speed data will work AOK on the 144 and 440 MHz bands. 1296 MHz affords the bandwidth (128KBPS) that high-speed data requires.



Remember: it is not my intention to plug ICOM's equipment here; I'm not a salesman for them. I'm just trying to explain and promote a promising new technology here. It seems to be catching on and growing rapidly in other parts of the country.

Interested in learning more?: Check out the ICOM D-STAR forum at www.icomamerica.com/support/forums (It's free to join!) Also check out these D-STAR websites: www.d-starradio.org and www.d-starusers.org/dstar.php, and the D-STAR forums at www.ae7q.net/board/phpBB.

I have D-STAR equipment, and I am interested in corresponding with anybody who is interested in this technology. Shoot me an E-Mail at: KQ3DX@hotmail.com if you are too!

Some information for this article was gleaned from ICOM's D-STAR website: www.icomamerica.com/amateur/dstar/default.asp

D-STAR illustrations courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007 ICOM America, Inc.

"After 40,660 QSO's logged as **STØRM & ST2A**, Jovica T98A (ex T94FC)'s assignment in Sudan has come to an end. During the past two years spent in Sudan, Jovica has made 35,012 CW, 3386 SSB, 2249 RTTY and 13 PSK31 QSO's and provided many new ones working 843 QSO's on 160m, 3916 QSO's on 80m and 585 QSO's on 6m. Some of the pictures which illustrate living and working conditions in Sudanese desert environment are available at <http://www.t93y.com/st2a>. Jovica's new assignment with UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) is in Dakar, Senegal and will start on 01 September. You will be informed when HAM operation starts. — T93Y

Quotes Heard Around Selected Shacks:

- 'Of course the switch is off, stupid!'
- 'I wonder if this capacitor is still charged?'
- 'Sure it's OK. I always look at the sunspots through binoculars.'
- 'Well, I'd be the first to admit it. Sometimes these HT isolator interlocks work and sometimes they don't but I'm pretty sure it's OK.'
- 'Of course I love you honey. CQ CQ CQ DX, why do you think anything different? CQ CQ CQ DX, jus' touch up that linear, honey, whoops, watch out for that loose power connection, CQ CQ CQ, when's your mother coming?, CQ CQ CQ, look out for that..... .aaaaw wasamatter now honey? honey?'

ARRL Brief Continued from Page 5

The ARRL's brief points out that the FCC's brief "fails to defend the Reconsideration Order's holding that unintentional radiators like BPL devices 'as such' are outside the scope of Section 301's license requirement. The brief actually admits the contrary -- that unintentional radiators are within Section 301." The FCC's brief mentions "but fails to acknowledge Section 302, which extended the FCC's authority to cover the manufacture and sale of interfering devices, is irrelevant to the scope of Section 301."

FCC Fails to Disclose Information

In its brief, the FCC failed to justify its "nondisclosure of significant portions of the technical studies on which the Orders rely." Instead, the ARRL said the FCC "attacks a straw man, suggesting that ARRL is after 'every internal document in its entirety that the agency's staff prepares in relating to a rule making proceeding."

The ARRL's brief states that the League only sought the full texts of the studies that the FCC "identified and cited as the basis for its conclusions. An agency may not cherry-pick the pages of the studies on which it relies, disclosing the ones that support its conclusions and redacting the others."

FCC Refuses to Consider Contrary Evidence and Viable Alternatives to Extrapolation Factors

The FCC's brief requests that the Court defer to its "technical judgment in adopting an extrapolation factor to measure interference." The ARRL contends that the FCC "is not entitled to deference where it refuses to consider substantial evidence submitted to it -- in this instance, at the agency's invitation -- and fails to consider a responsible alternative proposal."

The ARRL points out three studies conducted by OFCOM, the UK-equivalent to the FCC. Each study reached a conclusion opposite that of the FCC and "plainly were significant to warrant consideration," the League's brief said. "ARRL's proposed sliding-scale extrapolation factor was an alternative entitled to consideration and a reasoned explanation for its rejection."

FCC Dismisses BPL Alternative that Would Not Cause Harmful Interference

The ARRL makes the argument in its brief that it proposed a "win-win" solution: Authorize BPL, but "confine it to a generous frequency band that does not present these interference problems." It makes note of the fact that the largest BPL operator has designed its systems this way, and suggests that other operators could follow suit.

Yet the FCC in its brief brushed off these suggestions with a terse, two word sentence: "The other proposed 'solution' -- complete avoidance of all HF frequencies -- would needlessly restrict BPL design and reduce system capacity, without regard to whether there are amateurs that need protection from a particular BPL installation. This would result in a grossly inefficient utilization of Access BPL capacity, reducing the potential benefits of BPL and increasing its costs to the public, without a corresponding benefit or need."

ARRL, therefore, asked the Court in its brief "to enforce the FCC's 'duty to consider responsible alternatives to its chosen policy and to give a reasoned explanation for its rejection of such alternatives."

Pointing out the "multiple legal errors in the Orders," the ARRL stated in the brief that the FCC "require[d] a remand. When the Court remands the Orders, it should direct the FCC to give this alternative the careful consideration required by law."

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

New Business: Frank, N3FB, presented monies earned at the Butler Hamfest in a joint effort with the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum. They had electronic equipment to sell and we made it happen at the Butler Hamfest and got a piece of the action.

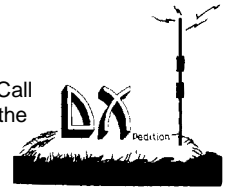
Kevin, N3HKQ, and Paul, NØVLR, asked if we were going to have a picnic this year. Last year we did not. Bill, W3WH, motioned and Jim, WB4GCS, seconded to not have a picnic this year. It was voted on and passed.

Bob, W3RJM, motioned for a Christmas party this year. Hank, KB3FNM, seconded it was voted on and passed. We will attempt to reserve Frank, N3XI's place again.

Good of the Order: No new reports.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Harold, K3HCR, and seconded by Carol, KB3GMN. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:15.

DX News Briefs



This is to advise readers of problems the ARRL Third Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau has in delivering cards to the managers or former managers of some DX stations or DXpeditions. The following notes are only with respect to situations where the cards are not accepted. We are aware of other situations where cards are accepted from our bureau by the managers, but where we don't believe they are actually answered. If you sent a card via bureau more than two years ago and you don't have a reply yet, we would advise going direct.

The following cases are those where the QSL volume is significant:

9Y4/N3BNA, HH7/N3BNA, V26B, ZP6/N3BNA, ZP9/N3BNA: The manager is KA2AEV. Cards are forwarded to KA2AEV via the W2 QSL Bureau.

4LØABC, 4L4BBC, FM1HN, FM1II: K3PD is no longer the Manager. Cards are returned to senders via their respective bureaus.

4LØG, 4LØHQ, 4L2M: K3PD is no longer the Manager. Cards are forwarded to UA9LP via the Russian Bureau.

6V6U, 6W6/K3IPK: Thus far we have failed to get K3IPK to provide us with the means for shipping him his cards. We hand-delivered a bunch of his cards to his club in October when we gave a presentation there. We have thus far not been able to get him to tell us what he wants us to do with his cards. We are holding plenty of them at this time. We do not destroy cards. If we do not hear from him eventually, they will be returned to senders through their respective bureaus.

KL7J: KL7J has asked his manager N3SL not to answer bureau cards. Cards are returned to the senders via their respective bureaus.

P29NB: K3BYV is NOT the manager. Cards are returned to senders via their respective bureaus.

PS2T, ZW5B: We have discussed with Manager W3HC his policy of not accepting bureau cards, and he refuses to change that policy. We have asked the station owners to consider changing managers, but that has not happened yet. Cards are returned to senders via their respective bureaus.

— Fred Laun K3ZO, Manager, NCDXA / ARRL Third Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau

(You do have your envelopes on file at the W3 QSL Bureau, don't you?)

"Our group is in the early planning stages of a DXpedition to **Sable Island, CYØ**. Further information is available on our web site: <http://www.sabledx.com>. We are currently seeking sponsors to help us cover the large cost of chartering the Britain Norman Islander aircraft which must be used to land on the beach at Sable Island. The cost of this charter alone will be nearly \$10,000. We are not currently seeking any more operators." — WV2B

QSL Routes

3B6RF via N3SL — W4DN	LT1F via AC7DX — W4DN
3B7SP via SP9SX — WD4ELG	N8S via YT1AD — K9RT
3CØM via EA5BYP — W2IRT	OA4SS via KB6J — W4DN
3DAØCF via K5LBU — K5LBU	OJØ/OH3RM via OH3RM — KE1JF
3DAØEI via EI7CC — K3WI	PS2ZT via W3HC — W4DN
3XM6JR via UA6JR — JA1HGY	ST2R via S57DX — DO1DXX
4L1GMC via LZ1OT — DO1DXX	TM8TAF via F8BBL — DO1DXX
5X1Z via SM6CAS — W4DN	TO3T via VE3KF — VA3RJ
5WØJT via JT1CO — K1SEZ	TR8CA via F6CBC — F1JKJ
6V7F via SM6MZ — W4DN	V63KU via JA6NL — W4DN
6W1SE via JR2KDN — DO1DXX	VK9DNX via DJ2MX — DJ2MX
9AØCI via DEØMST — DO1DXX	VP8KF via G3VPW — DO1DXX
9UØX via DJ6SI — K3WI	VU7MY via K2OO — W2IRT
A61AJ via K2UO — W4DN	VU7RG via JA2OO — W2IRT
BS7H via KU9C — K4WSB	XF2K via N6AWD — DO1DXX
CW6V via W3HNC — W4DN	XW1A via E21EIC — W4DN
D2NX via JH7FQL — KA3ARF	XT2C via F9IE — W4DN
DAØHQ via DL5AXX — DO1DXX	YA/LY1Y via LY1Y — G4FTC
HQ7F via OH3MKH — W4DN	YMØDX via OK2GZ — N2ZN
HZ7IK via DK7YY — DO1DXX	ZV5A via W3HC — W4DN

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, July 24th, 2007 — On July 24th, FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein testified at a House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet hearing that "three of the many urgent priorities we face" include the need for "a national broadband strategy to ensure the ubiquitous deployment of affordable, high speed broadband infrastructure to this country." FCC Chairman Kevin Martin and Commissioners Tate, McDowell and Copps testified as well at the "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission" hearing.



ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, responded via fax on July 25th to Commissioner Adelstein's remarks. "I cheered silently when I came to your reference to the 'current anemic definition of high-speed' that includes service that is too slow to meet citizens' reasonable expectations," he wrote. "I was even more impressed with your statement in the next paragraph, 'We must take a hard look at our successes and failures.'"

Sumner, however, expressed "great disappointment" over Adelstein's reference to "broadband over power line" (BPL) as "a technology deserving of 'increasing incentives for investment.' None of your colleagues' testimonies contain a similar reference," he pointed out.

Sumner reiterated the ARRL's position with regard to BPL technology and "its propensity to interfere with radio communication, a flaw that is not shared by other broadband delivery platforms. As long as interference is avoided," Sumner said, "it is of no concern to us whether private investment is devoted to BPL. However, we must object to your identification of BPL as a technology that is particularly deserving of favorable public policy treatment."

Calling the FCC's "inexplicable favoritism of BPL in the face of contrary evidence" one of the Commission's "failures," Sumner noted that according to the Commission's own latest figures, "of 64,600,000 'high-speed' lines, only about 5000 are BPL. This is a share of 0.008 percent, a share that actually *declined* in the six-month period between reports -- and if an 'anemic' definition were not used, *none* of the 5000 or so BPL lines would qualify."

ARRL's concern, Sumner said, at the "prospect of an even greater encouragement of BPL, as your testimony suggests, is that -- even at the very low level of deployment that exists to date -- the FCC's enforcement efforts have proved to be woefully inadequate to address ongoing cases of harmful interference from BPL systems."

Sumner went on to note "one example of documented interference (Enforcement Bureau File No. EB-06-SE-083) has been caused by the Ambient Corporation's Briarcliff Manor, New York installation for more than *three years* without being corrected and without penalty to the system operator... If the Commission is unable to protect its licensees from harmful interference from BPL now, it is difficult to imagine how it will be able to do so should BPL be more widely deployed in the future."

Sumner also attached a letter from William E. Burton, Chairman of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Burton's letter described the interference BPL is causing to local Amateur Radio operators in the village of Briarcliff Manor. He stressed that the FCC "should require that...Ambient cooperate with the ARRL and its BPL technical experts forthwith... This would include both the current experimental system, as well as any future or 'second generation' technology."

Burton's letter went on to say that "the best way for the FCC to promote a new technology while protecting public safety...[is to] make clear that complaints concerning harmful interference are taken seriously."

Sumner closed his comments by summarizing the ARRL's position: "We respectfully submit that BPL has not earned a place in the much-needed national broadband strategy to benefit all Americans. Resources are better devoted elsewhere, to more promising technologies that do not pose a threat to the Commission's radio service licensees."

OZ7IGY, an experimental propagation beacon, will be QRV for the next year on 40.021 MHz. OZ7IS is the beacon keeper and contact should you happen to hear it!

More information is available at <http://www.oz7igy.dk/>

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Uniontown Amateur Radio Club W3PIE

58th Annual GABFEST

Saturday, September 1, 2007, 8:00 AM Through 1:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION!!

The GABFEST will be held at the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club grounds located on Old Pittsburgh Road just off Rt. 51 and US Rt. 119 in Uniontown, PA.

Gates will open at 8:00 AM, with vendors welcome at any time prior to 8:00 AM!

Talk in provided on 147.045 + . Call W3PIE GABFEST Talk-In. This talk in is provided for directions (which may be needed due to construction in the area) and GABFEST information. No check in is needed if you know how to get here!

FREE Swap-N-Shop set-up with registration! As always, FREE parking is available!

Of course, that world famous W3PIE breakfast will be available as well as other fine refreshments!

PRIZE LIST

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| 1 st Prize | Yaesu FT-7800-R | 144/430 MHz | Dual Band FM Transceiver |
| 2 nd Prize | Yaesu FT-60-R | 144/430 MHz | Dual Band 5 W Handheld |
| 3 rd Prize | Yaesu VX-150 | 144 MHz | VHF FM 5 W Handheld |
| 4 th Prize | Sox Key | | Hand-Made Telegraph Key |

PLUS OTHER HOURLY PRIZES & 50/50 DRAWING

Top four prizes & 50/50 awarded beginning at 12:30 P.M.

Winners need not be present for the top four prizes!!

(Top four prizes are subject to change due to availability.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tony Alviar KA3VOR (724) 430-1277 (M-F 8-4);

Herb Shaffer KA3WSO (724) 326-8810

or Ralph Bliss KB3LBB (724) 438-5182

Information may also be obtained from any net operator on the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club's net held every Thursday evening at 9:00 P.M. on 147.045+



Just Two More N3SH 2007 Field Day
Photos, courtesy of and ©Copyright
2007 Larry Comden K3VX





WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

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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
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

(FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

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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:

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Benefits for the club: A few more shekels for our coffers.

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

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Name & Call Sign: _____

Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- Field Day 2007 Pictures!
- D-STAR is here!
- Do Flagpole Antennas Really work?
- ARRL Files Suit regarding BPL!
- A 40 MHz beacon? (That's MHz not meters!)

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

Mr. Tower

Been wondering what Randy N3ZK has been up to since the Tower Trailer was pretty much completed? Meet his "new" 40 foot tower... beam to come!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007 Randy George N3ZK



The WASHRag

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Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor
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