



WASHRAG™

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SEPTEMBER 2007

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

Symposium: T-8



We are T minus 8 weeks and counting until the 2007 AMSAT Space Symposium! Pat Sanford and I believe we are on schedule with all of the arrangements. Many of you have been very helpful so far in key areas. Larry Comden K3VX has arranged for printing of the proceedings and obtaining materials from the Pittsburgh Visitors Bureau for the souvenir bag that will be given to each symposium participant. Paul Lusardi NØVLR and his sons are assembling the souvenir bag and Paul is

also recruiting middle and high school aged students to participate in some activities arranged for them. These include a satellite antenna construction workshop given by Richard Crow N2SPI. Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI and Jacque Gosselin N3ZEL have been busy contacting ham radio companies and soliciting for prizes. Their efforts are paying off as we have several prizes already. And, I have recruited college ham clubs and so far the University of Pittsburgh W3YI club will attend. I expect to hear from more college clubs when classes begin soon.

Dan McCann KB3HVN is ready to offer two types of collared polo shirts embroidered with the symposium logo. The first is a handsome black and gold shirt especially offered to club members who assist during the symposium. Maroon shirts embroidered with the symposium logo will

be offered to symposium attendees. There are two types of material, a wicking material that is priced at \$40 and a cotton blend shirt that will be offered for \$30. While the black and gold shirts are meant for club members, they are by no means mandatory. Please do not feel compelled to purchase a shirt.

Many club members who have offered their help during the symposium but did not know where we need help. Now you can check out where help is needed by going to the club website at http://amsat.n3sh.org/index_reponsibilities.php. Here you can see where you can help and when help is needed. Randy George N3ZK, our fearless leader and webmaster, created this page and each time someone new adds there name, I am sent an email telling me all about it. The trouble is I haven't been getting emails. I am getting lonely here so please cheer me by signing up. Thanks in advance for signing up.

Please stay tuned for late breaking news and if you need to contact me, give me a call at home in the evenings at 724-258-4153.

— 73 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



Where Do I Begin?

It's been awhile!

PA QSO is coming just around the corner. Only 1 month away. What are we doing? Are we doing anything as a club? Where is everyone going? Are we going to try and get a location so that a group can attend? Let's get our plans finalized by the September meeting.



PA QSO is one of 2 yearly events that the club really puts forth an effort to work. Last year was great!! Even though we were the bonus station, there is no reason why we can make as many QSO's as we did last year. I know that I will either be heading up to my parents house or I might have to stay close as my daughter has her soccer games on Saturday's. I will not be using a club call, but I will be using the clubs mobile tower trailer. So, let's get the word out and finalize our plans for PA QSO so we know where everyone is.

As of this column, the Nittany ARC has NOT yet announced who the Bonus Station is. When they do, I will post it on the website.

I apologize for not having a column for a few months, things have been hectic. I am happy to announce that my tower / antenna / remodel shack project has been completed!! Between this, work and other things my

(Where Do I Begin? Continued on page 3)

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Next Meeting: September 13th, 2007

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, September 13th, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

The AMSAT Symposium, and the 2007 50th Anniversary 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!

Editor's Note: The following e-mail and response may be of interest to all Western PA Radio Amateurs, and is courtesy of Rich Caldwell WA3QKX and the Greater Pittsburgh VHF Society reflector

From: John Davies
 To: Johnson, David
 Subject: ID Cards

Correspondence

DJ —

There's a lot of talk on the amateur nets about the ID cards for Section 13 that were mentioned in the Trib and other local papers. No one seems to know anything other than what was in the article.

Do you have any more details?

If you want, I could pass on any info. Or you would be welcome on the Allegheny County Public Service ARES/RACES Net at 147.090 Wed at 9:00.

Rather than speculate, I prefer to go to the source.

— John Davies

John,
 Credentialing in general is a BIG issue. I believe that what was referred to as the FRAC program (First Responder Authentication Credential). We are one of the test sites for this federal program. I know they did some work for a recent exercise as a test but that is to my knowledge. When this gets to the RACES personnel we will make it known through existing channels. If you're discussing current issues for amateur radio response I would mention the requirement for NIMS (National Incident Management System) training. From NIMS Integration Center <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/faq/training.shtm>

Q. Who has to take NIMS and ICS training?

A. All Federal, State, Tribal, and Local entities, Private Sector and Nongovernmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response must be NIMS and ICS trained. This includes all emergency services related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel, as follows:

- *Entry Level: FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction; ICS-100: Introduction to ICS*
- *First Line, Single Resource, Field Supervisors: IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200: Basic ICS or its equivalent*
- *Mid-level Management: Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, etc.: IS-700, IS-800 (NRP), ICS-100, ICS-200 and ICS-300**

I would say that RACES personnel are required to do 100 and 700 unless that are ROs or Deputy ROs which would require 200. They are welcome to take any of them but those would be a minimum.

The 100, 200, 700 and 800 are available free online from FEMA at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>. For the adventurous ones, w/the prerequisites and some ICS experience, we're offering 300 and 400 here free. Information can be found on our web page <http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/emerserv/emscourse.aspx>

Any other questions let me know.

— David "DJ" Johnson, Ph.D, FO-I, EMT-P
 Planner, Emergency Management Division
 Allegheny County Dept. of Emergency Services, 400 North Lexington St, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15208
 Phone: 412-473-3315
 Fax: 412-473-2623

Topic: ID Cards & NIMS Issues

WASH 2007 OFFICERS

<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</u>			
President	Randy George N3ZK		
VP / Secretary	Frank Bobro N3FB		
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV		
<u>AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:</u>			
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		
<u>CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:</u>			
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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 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
 Thursday, July 17th, 2008
 Thursday, October 16th, 2008

Where Do I Begin? Continued from Page 1

The FCC will reduce the fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign, starting September 17. They will cut the fee from \$20.80 to **\$11.70**. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program.

The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$171,990 in fees from the program.

time has been consumed. I would like to thank Paul, NØVLR and Jim, WO3Z and Brian KB3ORR for helping me with my project.

The tower trailer project is still going. I have made a list of things we still need for the project. If you can help, great.

The Website is working great. However, I have de-commissioned the online web forum due to lack of use (none) the last few months.

Ted W4ZE is having a great time living in his new QTH, Port St. Lucy Florida. Ted says hi and is looking forward to working us in the PA QSO Party.

More news to come....

— 73, Randy George N3ZK
 President, Wireless Association of South Hills
 N3SH WA3SH NP2SH

The text for the House version of HB 1777 is now on-line. I've also posted this to our WPA Section website. I have not spent time comparing the two versions; but, it will PROBABLY be almost the same as the Senate version.

To locate the Bill, Go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>, click on the "Bill" radio button, then enter "HB1777", then click

"GO", in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Finally, click on the "text" link on the page that follows. The text of HB1777 should appear.

To find your state representative, go to <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.

I urge each of you to take the time to contact your state representative and tell him/her why they should support HB1777. It's best to use your own words — they're far more effective than any prepared statement!

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

A nice hot August morning... and Ye Editor stuck in King of Prussia sweating while the last EPA cousin got married off... but that didn't stop **the WASH Breakfast Gang** from gathering on August 25th at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. Larry K3VX reports that this month had a sparse turnout of Harold K3HCR, Hank KB3FNM and Mary Lou, Ed W3VFA, and Larry K3VX. Topics: Hank's hunting Camp for PAQP, Street Paving around the area, liquids spilled into radios, Hank & Mary Lou are retiring from business after 27 years, Harold's new job, and the price of dongles. What's a dongle, you ask? Well, I guess you had to be there...all the more reason to be at the first breakfast of the autumn!

So please join us for the next club breakfast, Saturday, September 30th, 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!

Congratulations to Bill W3WH on receiving a plaque from the ARRL honoring him for winning the QRP Division in the 2006 ARRL Sweepstakes!

Speaking of contests, as Randy mentions in his column, **the 2007 Pennsylvania QSO Party** is about six weeks away. After all the planning and preparations we've gone through the last few years, culminating in our running the Bonus Station operation in the 2006 contest, things have been pretty quiet. Now, nobody expects us to put out another full-blown multi station effort like last year — especially with the AMSAT Symposium coming up two weeks later! — but we should still put forth a club effort for the 50th Anniversary of the contest (yes, as far as we know, that makes PaQP the oldest US State QSO Party!)

So far, we know that Randy N3ZK will be running a station, either from his home or his parent's home. Larry K3VX and Bill W3WH are talking about a mobile effort. We may no longer have Ted W4ZE as our Washington Co anchor, but he plans to conquer FL this year! And Ye Editor is planning to be operational from somewhere... exactly what is up in the air at the moment. Beyond that... our ear's to the ground, and we're waiting...

And speaking of **The 2007 AMSAT Space Symposium**, Kevin and Patty are doing a bang-up job getting things organized. But they still need help getting volunteers to be at the hotel and help keep things running. If you haven't already done so, take a look at the club web site, follow the links, and sign up for a shift or two at the symposium today!

What do KB3ERQ, N3RDV, KE7FD, N2QIV, W3WN, and others have in common? They're all **hams that work in downtown Pittsburgh** right now. Any thoughts to getting together for lunch one afternoon?

Are you having trouble getting your emails (or this newsletter) in your inbox? We've learned that at least one club member's **ISP was blocking email from the N3SH Yahoo Group** thinking that it was spam! (They had no idea what "an N3SH" was!) So if your reflector email dries up suddenly... have a word with your ISP tech support!

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 13

Minutes, August 9th Meeting

Paul Lusardi NØVLR, Acting Secretary, WASH

Randy N3ZK, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours.

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

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the August meeting as published in the June newsletter was made. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): The repeater electric bill has been submitted and paid. Field Day pins are not here yet due to a shipping error. A letter was sent to AAAP with a \$50 donation.

Secretary (N3FB): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session is October 18th at 6:30 PM. VEs should contact Jacque, N3ZEL, to let her know they will be there.

QSL Manager (N3ZNI): Following a short discussion on QSL cards, Bill W3WH made a motion to purchase QSL cards costing \$35 per 100. Second by Carol KB3GMN. Motion carried.

Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB): Discussion of Pete and Steve's plans for the repeaters with Pete due to soon move to North Carolina. A question was asked about a possible relocation of 146.955 if Steve also leaves the employ of Mt. Lebanon in the future.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): The Net is up and running. NCS schedules are now in the newsletter. Randy requests that net controllers use the new database forms on the club web site.

Public Service (N3RDV): Dave N3IDH is looking for help for the Labor Day race. In the event of inclement weather, Washington County will activate nets on 146.790, Allegheny County on 147.090. You can use e-spotter for posting Weather reports, Randy will post.

Contests (K3VX): AAAP feeds their people at their summer fest and wish to associate it with our Field Day. Randy would like to use the mobile tower trailer for his Pa QSO Operation; all present agreed.

Newsletter (W3WN): The August newsletter went out. On time. Newsletter needs content as always. Some ISP's have been blocking the N3SH and WA3SH yahoo groups because they don't know what ham calls are and thing these are Unwanted Commercial Email's.

Quartermaster (K3HCR): Larry K3VX currently has the club laptop.

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

President's Report (N3ZK): Randy gave an update on the Tower Trailer project. A list will be given to Harold for inventory. Randy will send letters of thanks to all corporate sponsors. The list will be published in a future newsletter once it has been compiled.

AMSAT Symposium (N3HKQ):

- IARU speaker is coming
- Schedule for helpers is presented and needs to be filled in
- Online registration is now done
- Antenna building session for kids – need \$100 budget from AMSAT
- Rick Bell to discuss details with A/V people
- Dave, N3DFK – EchoLink setup
- Paul to beat up Todd for Abstract
- Patti asking for sweets, water, pop, etc...
- Dan KB3HVN explained what shirts will be available and that they can now be ordered. N3HKQ & WB4GCS modeled theirs.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Jim, WB4GCS offered to tune some UHF antennas as an Elmer event.

Motion to Adjourn: The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:15.

WASH Spotlight: Symposium



Rogue's Gallery? Or the AMSAT Symposium Planning Meeting, 13 August 2007? You decide! (Just kidding!)

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2007 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership					Silent Keys
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	KB3ORR	N3RDV	WA3RVD	KE3XB	N3KEH
K3WJL	KB3PHJ	N3RNX	WA4ONC	N3YPB	N3OBD
KA3TWI	KB3PNE	N3SBF	WB4GCS	WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3DCO	KC4WTT	N3ZEL	WO3Z	N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3FNM	KE7FD	N3ZK	Heywood	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMN	KN3A	N3ZNI	Eicker	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3GMP	NØVLR	N9OKM	Woody	Jane Wagner	
KB3GMU	NØWPV	W3BC	Eicker	WASH VI	
KB3HFP	N2QIV	W3JJC	Lee Rice	NP2JF	
KB3HVN	N3AWF	W3LE	Jane Wagner		
KB3IAC	N3BPB	W3RJM			

Through August 30th, 2007

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

*Is Tractus Eram
Intentionally Left Vestis*

Star Party & Field Day 2008 ?

Larry McHenry, Mingo Creek Park Observatory, AAAP

Is the AAAP Making Us an Offer Too Good To Refuse for Field Day 2008?

This year's co-event was very successful for both of our organizations, and we really enjoyed working with *WASH*. We are looking forward to working with you again in 2008, and developing a bigger and better Field-Day / Star Party co-event for next year!

The MCPO Committee is planning a public Star Party for both that Friday and Saturday night. (June 27th & 28th, 2008). Additionally, taking advantage of and building on the fact that we will already be there all day Saturday thru 2:00 PM Sunday with scheduled activities, the committee has decided to 'restart' Mingo's Summerfest on that weekend, running from Friday afternoon, June 27th thru Sunday afternoon June 29th.

To see our last Summerfest in 2006, <http://www.3ap.org/summerfest/>

We will be reserving both Shelter 10 (which we plan on sharing with *WASH*), and the camping area, so as to have complete control of the entire site during the co-event weekend. In addition to camping, astronomical talks, planetarium shows, observing at the observatory, and amateur radio demonstrations at both the observatory and Shelter 10, we will be looking at including some of the other past activities that we use to do at our StarCruise conventions. (children's activities, rocket launches, astro quiz game); See <http://www.lhstarcruise.org/>

Also, we will be contacting the local Scout council this fall to see if they would like to participate. They may be interested in having their Scouts work on their amateur radio or astronomy merit badges. Also, we're going to see if they would be the food vendor for the weekend. (it would be like a fund-raiser for them as they would sell breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and keep the profits).

We'll also be participants in the National Wildlife Federation's Great American Backyard Campout. <http://www.backyardcampout.org/>

Having *WASH* at both the observatory and Shelter 10 should really enhance the event! We will be able to offer an amateur radio/astronomy oriented camping event that will appeal to the local members of both of our clubs, and the general public!

While it is still early to put together too detailed of a schedule, we will want to start thinking about how to coordinate the event, and to make sure that any activities that we plan for Shelter 10 will not conflict. An example of which is if we should locate children's activities or if the Scouts setup their 'kitchen' at Shelter 10, will that impact the type of Field-Day communications that you were conducting this year at Shelter 9? (would that be too noisy or distracting for you? Do you need all of the shelter space for your equipment, or can we or the Scouts share part of it?)

After the first of the year, when details are more final, we'll be posting more information to the AAAP listserver and updates to the AAAP website for Summerfest.

We think there is a great potential to make this a yearly co-event for both clubs, and we look forward to working with *WASH* to make it happen.

W3P QRV Special Event Station for the 2007 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

Bob McCloskey W3RJM

The Steel City ARC and WASH Amateur Radio Clubs decided to jointly operate a Special Event station to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. The event was operated from the Steel City club house. We operated from 11:00 to 6:00 (EDT) on both the 15th and 16th of July. I secured the call sign W3P for the weekend.

Thanks to the following individuals we were able to operate the entire time and were active on 17, 20, 30, and 40 meters: W3SVJ (Nate), W3WH (Bill), WQ3T (Dave), KB3PJW (Matt), K3LAB (Doug), WB3IKJ (Ron), WB3AGB (Joe), WA3VXJ (Karl), N3SBF (Rich), N3ZEL (Jackie) and N3ZNI (Ed).

I would also like to thank Ed for being the W3P QSL Manager.



W3P Special Event Station in Operation!

Above: Rich N3SBF & Rob W3RTM (?)

Below Picture: Ed N3ZNI

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007

Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Jim Sanford WB4GCS accepting his award as 2007 ARRL Atlantic Division Technical Achievement Award at the Atlantic Division Convention in June.

Presenting the award (at left) is ARRL Atlantic Division Director and former WPA Section Manager Bill Edgar N3LLR.



Photo courtesy of the ARRL Atlantic Division web site.



Microsoft Questions FCC "White Space" Decision

Though its own prototype wasn't working properly during FCC testing, Microsoft urges approval of wireless devices that detect available TV broadcast signals Grant Gross, IDG News Service

August 13th, 2007 — A prototype wireless device intended to share radio spectrum with television channels was malfunctioning when staff at the U.S. Federal Communications Commission tested it, Microsoft said Monday.

The FCC on July 31st said a wireless prototype submitted by Microsoft and other members of the White Spaces Coalition interfered with cable television channels and therefore would not be licensed for use. The White Spaces Coalition, including Google, Dell, Intel, and other tech vendors, wants the FCC to approve wireless devices that operate in the so-called spectrum white spaces between TV channels.

Microsoft, in a letter to the FCC Monday, said the scanner in one of two prototypes submitted was damaged and "operated at a severely degraded level." The scanner in the wireless device is supposed to sniff for broadcasts in spectrum before transmitting in the band and switch to another band if the first one is occupied. The FCC found that the prototype did not consistently detect TV broadcast signals and could cause interference.

Microsoft had tested the prototype and found that it operated within FCC specifications, wrote Ed Thomas, a consultant for the White Spaces Coalition and a former chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. "The damaged scanner accounted for the entire discrepancy between the Microsoft and the FCC bench test data," Thomas said in a letter from the coalition's law firm, Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis.

Microsoft, in a statement, said it hopes the FCC will move forward with the approval of white spaces devices. The company is "confident" that unused channels in the TV spectrum band "can successfully be used" and not cause interference to incumbent licensees, it said.

The FCC found that a second prototype device submitted by Philips Electronics North America could detect both digital television and wireless microphone signals in the laboratory, Microsoft noted.

Television broadcasters have questioned whether dozens of new wireless devices operating in prime TV spectrum will interfere with signals. The National Association of Broadcasters and the Association for Maximum Service Television in comments filed with the FCC in March saying wireless microphone makers and public safety officials have "identified serious interference concerns" with unlicensed devices operating between TV channels 2 and 51.

The two groups said unlicensed advocates "provide little or no technical data to support their positions," while broadcasters have provided measured test data. "All of the measurement data submitted in the records support the [broadcasters'] technical positions," the groups wrote in their FCC filing.

DirecTV Unveils BPL Plans

DSL Reports.com

August 15th, 2007 — As they had hinted at previously, DirecTV says they'll be dipping their toe into the broadband over powerline (BPL) business. Starting at the end of this year or early next year, the company will begin selling a satellite TV, BPL and VoIP bundle in conjunction with Current Communications in the Dallas area.

The company's press release notes that the Dallas BPL network "will cover approximately 1.8 million homes and businesses over the next several years." The company says they'll expand the offering to additional markets as Current expands their network.

"Our agreement with CURRENT gives our customers another high-quality, easy-to-use option to pair broadband services with DIRECTV's video offerings," said Evan Grayer, vice president of Broadband for DIRECTV. "By choosing this bundled option, DIRECTV customers will now be able to enjoy fast, reliable and secure high-speed Internet service anywhere they have a power outlet in their homes."

DirecTV's exploration could be a very limited engagement, given BPL's growing pains and Current's limited footprint (they only offer service in parts of Dallas and Cincinnati). It's possible Current's network may not substantially expand, since that depends on utilities being interested in offering broadband (many aren't).

Then of course there's the longstanding interference concern. The ARRL's Ed Hare recently stopped by our forums to discuss the progress that's being made with BPL interference, noting that Current had been cooperative:

"Current Technologies, the BPL manufacturer whose equipment is being used in Cincinnati, OH and Dallas, TX uses HomePlug technology on the 240-volt wiring, and 32-48 MHz on overhead power lines. The result? In both cities, BPL is deploying without major interference problems." Still, we'd avoid calling 2007 "the year of BPL" if history is any indication. It's very unlikely this service will ever reach a significant portion of DirecTV customers.



DirecTV Announces Plan to Provide Services via BPL

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 16th, 2007 — According to the August 15 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, "Satellite-television provider DirecTV announced a wholesale agreement today with Current Group to provide high-speed Internet service over electric-power lines," otherwise known as Broadband over Power Lines (BPL).

"Broadband over power line is a new technology that allows customers to plug a modem device the size of a cell phone into an electric outlet and connect a cable from their computer for Internet access that is capable of speeds that are faster than some popular Internet plans from cable and phone companies. Current is building out broadband networks in Cincinnati and Dallas-Fort Worth and is in talks with a number of utilities around the world about a commercial rollout," the *Journal* said.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said "There is no reason to panic [over this decision]. ARRL's only concern about BPL is the interference potential. In that regard, the approach that Current has taken to date — limiting its use of the medium-voltage lines to 30-50 MHz and using the HomePlug standard to avoid the HF ham bands on the low-voltage drop — has been satisfactory. If the FCC mandated what Current has been doing, we would be quite happy."

Sumner continued: "We can be glad that DirecTV chose to align itself with a BPL company that has taken the interference problem seriously and has a good track record of avoiding interference in the amateur bands."

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, commented, "ARRL and Current have communicated regularly over the past few years. Current has been an early leader in carefully choosing its design to avoid interference to Amateur Radio. They don't operate below 30 MHz on overhead lines at all, and use HomePlug technology, which doesn't use the ham bands, in customers' premises. To date, ARRL has no Amateur Radio interference reports involving Current or HomePlug equipment."

Do You Know This Guy? I Think He Only Comes Out At Night

Herman C. Segle, Sr. N8GAV courtesy of www.qrz.com

I just can not get over how some people think. Or why they do things that you know they did then blame it on a gentleman name "I Don't Know".

Case in point: A few weekends ago, a friend who I thought was a smart guy and talks like he knows something, upgraded from Tech Plus to General. Great! He bought a Kenwood TS-820, a good starter rig, from a ham we are both friends with, and the rig was well taken care of.

Myself, the seller, and the buyer went over the rig with a fine tooth comb, the seller even bought a new set of tubes (2 6146 finals and a 12BY7A driver) even though the rig was doing 125 watts with the old ones. I tested them with my tube-tester and they were perfect; he did this as goodwill to the buyer. I neutralized the finals, checked the Bias and lined up the rig. The seller is a non smoker, so it was clean, and he had a dust cover he kept on it, no dirt anywhere on or in the rig.

When it left my bench, that rig was like brand new, doing 125 watts on 160 through 15 meters, and 110 watts on 10 meters, as per the manual. I have the habit of marking one of the screws on the finals cage with a dab of red paint, something that I do even at work when I fix something that I have to take apart.

Yesterday the buyer calls me and tells me the rig was dead, it won't receive or transmit. I asked him what happened. "I Don't Know," everything was OK Saturday but today nothing, dead as a door nail. I told him to bring it over and I will look it over.

The only thing it would receive was WWV; odd. I tried to tune it up, and I got 10 watts; odd. I started to take off the top and some of the screws head were striped, very odd since two weeks ago they were like new. I looked at the finals cage, and only two screws were in there, not the one I marked and both heads were striped and not down all the way. I turned the rig over took off the bottom and found one of the cage screws, but not the one I marked, it's missing in action. I looked at the band switch and saw a "new" XTAL in the 10 meter spot, the new crystal was smaller then the one's for this rig. Someone took out the band switch and put it in backwards. "The Golden Screw Driver" Strikes.

I called him up and asked who was in that rig? "I Don't Know". How did the band switch get backwards? "I Don't Know" All right then, what's with this new smaller crystal? "I Don't Know."

Wives are funny, they talk to other wives, and his and mine work out at the same gym. And no wonder they can't testify in a court of law against their hubbies, we all would get death if they did. "I told so and so not to try and put his radio over to CB, because if he messed it up and called Hank to fix it he won't". The Lady speaks the truth!! I'm NOT.

So look out for this guy named "I Don't Know" he has a set of "GOLDEN SCREW DRIVERS" and wants to turn good rigs into JUNK

A Bang Up Job of Packaging & Handling

UPS Does It Again!

John B. Lee KT6E courtesy of <http://www.qrz.com>

Ever dreamed of owning a super clean, high-end "big rig" from the 1990's era? Well I have, and I tried to make that dream come true. The rig I chose was a high serial number Kenwood 950SDX, touted by many hams as the best HF transceiver Kenwood ever made.

I found mine on E-Bay and after determining that the rig was as clean as I could hope for, I decided to go for bust and did the Buy-It-Now for well over \$2000. I talked with the seller, and we both seemed happy with the deal. The seller, not wanting to deal with the tedious job of packing the delicate radio for a possible (probable) rough ride with UPS, had The UPS Store do the packing. Well a week or so later, I received the package via UPS after it made the 400 mile journey from L.A. to San Francisco.

Eager to check out my 1990's 'big rig classic,' I ripped into the box and carefully lifted out my big heavy beauty. I set it on the desk and began what was to be a lengthy examination of what was obviously a very well cared for 950SDX. Suddenly, I noticed that the VFO barely turned and had a vicious wobble to it as I turned it. Focusing in on the front panel I noticed to my chagrin, that most of the controls in the left lower quadrant were tweaked to the point of being jammed; some were even bent. My shiny 'new' baby had taken a bad hit in transit.

I examined the packaging that The UPS Store in Los Angeles had done and though not a bad job (it WAS double boxed), it was just not adequate to protect a delicate 50 lb. radio from a big drop. So I went through the UPS insurance claim hassles, packed up the 950SDX the right way (double boxed ++) and sent it to the Kenwood repair facility in Cerritos, CA. When I talked with Kenwood Cerritos on the phone, they urged me to pack the radio carefully so it would not sustain further shipping damage. Well, after spending \$650 of my own money (it took UPS the better part of a year to process the claim and pay me for the repair) Kenwood informed me that they corrected all the problems from the shipping damage and the radio was being shipped back to me via UPS.

When I got the radio back from Kenwood Cerritos, I made a fatal mistake. Being very busy with other things in my life and trusting Kenwood Cerritos as the experts in repairing and packaging big Kenwood transceivers, I left the radio in the box and stored it in my closet until I had time to deal with it. When I finally opened up the box (yes, single box) last weekend, containing my repaired 950SDX, I found to my dismay that the whole left rear corner of the radio was crushed!! The upper cabinet was caved in several centimeters on the top, back, and left side. The small metal cage enclosure on the left rear of the radio was crushed, as was the left rear internal chassis member where the cabinet screws mount. This dismayed me, to be sure, but this time I was not all that shocked. Upon examining the packing from the Kenwood repair facility, I noticed immediately that the 2" low density foam they used to surround the radio within the single box was entirely inadequate for a heavy hit or drop from any height. I could easily compress the foam down to 1/8" between my fingers! The exterior of the box seemed intact and undamaged. Unfortunately, I had let the time limit run out for another insurance claim against UPS (I didn't even try).



I felt the least I could do, as a responsible consumer with integrity, was to notify Kenwood Cerritos and UPS of their mutual ineptness at packaging and handling of delicate expensive, heavy equipment. Upon informing Kenwood Cerritos in a very matter of fact and neutral tone of voice of the damaged radio and inadequate packing job they did on the 950SDX, their response can best be described as very short and terse. When I asked if they still used UPS to ship radios, he said 'yes.' And

(UPS & TS-950SDX Continued on page 9)

I'm DX! Tom Callas KCØW / ZD7X courtesy of www.qrz.com

As some of you know, I'm moving to St. Helena island. My callsign is ZD7X. I have buckled my seatbelt for the crazy ride that I will be experiencing by living on the "second most remote island in the world which is inhabited". The official title of THE most remotely populated island is Tristan da Cunha. Tristan is located about 1400 miles south of St. Helena. More about Tristan in a minute.

Why I'm doing this: When I hit the age of 40 (two years ago) I felt there was more to life than working 12 hour days, six days a week year after year after year. Call it a mid-life crisis? Maybe so.

I have been very lucky in life. Through working my butt off, I will be able to live comfortably in "semi-retirement" on the island into the foreseeable future. I'm divorced & we decided not to have kids. It's great being able to do whatever the hell I want to in life now!!!

Getting to St. Helena is logistically interesting. One must first fly to Europe. You then change planes for the flight to Cape Town, South Africa. After a layover in Europe, it's on to Cape Town on a 12 hour flight. Total travel time is 26 hours straight from Minnesota including layovers in the USA & Europe. One then boards a cargo/mail ship for the 5 day voyage to St. Helena. An airport does not exist on the island, thus all travel must be done by ship. An airport is scheduled for completion by 2010 or 2011. (Once in international waters, you just might hear KCØW / MM calling CQ. The registry of the ship is British.

St. Helena island is located roughly 2/3 of the way between Brazil & Angola, in Africa. It really is in the middle of nowhere. That is why the British exiled Napoleon to St. Helena, where he lived out the remaining of his days. The island's population is about 3,800 with a mixture of locals, British & South African residents. I will be the only American on the island according to everyone with whom I have spoken with on St. Helena. I lived in London for six months in the late 80's. The British are some of the nicest people that one could ever run across.

Passion for amateur radio: I applied for & received the ZD7X call sign little over a month ago. It's a good call and quite a memorable one I feel. There are currently about a dozen licensed amateurs living on ZD7 land. Only three are what I would call "semi active". Bruce, ZD7VC, is probably THE most active amateur on the island. According to DX Summit (a DX cluster) he gets on the radio about once or twice a month for about an hour each time. Thus, St. Helena is very "ripe for the pickin'" in terms of people needing ZD7 land on amateur radio. Again, according to DX summit, there have not been any DX spots over the last 5 years on the 160 & 80/75 meter bands. On 40 meters there has been ONE spot a few years ago. On 30 meters there have been about 6 spots. It is going to be absolutely insane when those bands get activated!!!

A total of 402 pounds of amateur gear was successfully delivered to Cape Town about two weeks ago & placed onboard the ship for the voyage. Due to expediting the gear thru South African Customs, shipping with DHL was recommended. The only method that DHL uses to ship to South Africa is by 2nd day air. I can now easily understand why the big multi teamed DXpeditions can rack up \$150,000+ just in personal and gear transportation fees.

The main radio that I will be using is a highly modified Yaesu 1000D. This rig is really my baby & I will be devastated if anything has happened to it while in transport. This is followed by three quality backup rigs. Antennas (for the time being) are verticals by ZeroFive antennas. I have something plans for yagis to be shipped to the island in January or so.

Tristan da Cunha island (1400 miles south of St. Helena) is very much needed on many bands, especially 160 & 80/75. I have been in contact with a cargo line that visits Tristan once a month departing from Cape Town. It is my goal to launch a 3 band DXpedition to Tristan next year. Those bands will be, 160, 80 & 20 meters. Because Tristan is located so far south, my main (if only) mode will be CW.

What to expect: I hope to personally meet MANY of you "on the air" from St. Helena. No more of this "meeting people on the computer screen", but actually talking with many of you on the air be it CW or SSB. Be sure to ask me about what it's like paying over \$8 for a gallon of gasoline on the island. (QSL ZD7X via WØMM direct)

Thanks for taking the time to read my ramblings as I will soon be starting the most exciting chapter in my life yet!!!

Live your dreams. You only go around once!



THE PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY

The 50th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party, celebrating Fifty Years of "The Friendly QSO Party", sponsored by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, will take place on October 13th & 14th 2007.

Contest chairman Mike Coslo KB3EIA has announced that a complete re-write and update of the rules has been completed and will soon be posted on the Pa QSO Web Site at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqsorules.htm>

Complete rules are scheduled to be run in the October newsletter, space permitting!

More information on the Party and on what counties will be activated (or need to be activated) can be found on the Pa QSO Party Reflector. To add yourself to the PAQP reflector, use this link and follow instructions: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/paqso>

My First HF QSO

Eric Stover KØEWS courtesy of www.eham.net

Today, taking materials to our recycling center after a recent move, I was going through the "shred box." This is our box of bank statements; bills, etc. accumulated after all those years. For some reason, we had them tucked away and hadn't disposed of them just yet. Anyway, off to the recycling center and the shredder they went. Just as I was about to throw a pile of bills in the shredder, I saw something. On the back of one of those old insurance statements was the transcript of that first HF QSO. It took me back 7 years...

I already had a 2 meter rig, and that was fun enough, but HF was where the real interest was. After months of planning, saving, and scraping things together, I was finally on HF. My first rig was QRP, as it had a low cost, and there were no problems with RF. I strung a dipole inside my garage once I got the rig, just to see what would happen. In retrospect, being at the top of the sunspot cycle helped... a lot.

First I listened, and was amazed at what I could hear. I just thought the idea of someone in New York talking to someone in California and me hearing it through a piece of wire, inside nonetheless, was amazing. Then, one night, after working up the courage, I called CQ. Imagine my shock when I got an answer. At first my nerves took over and I froze. I then realized that this guy was sending code to ME, so I'd better start writing some things down. I grabbed the nearest thing to me on that table; it was a recent insurance statement. My little puny 5 watts indoor signal was heard all the way down in New Mexico by W5WM. I wrote down his call, his name, the RST, and all the other information. We had a very nice little chat, albeit a little short, but a chat nonetheless, on CW, and QRP. What an accomplishment, I thought! I had cracked that mysterious code, and though nobody was speaking, another person and myself exchanged thoughts and greetings a half a country away. Nothing but dots, dashes, static and the ether between us, and yet, though it all, I'd made an acquaintance. The magic of radio somehow took that night and I was hooked. I got a QSL card a few days later, confirming everything that I thought I'd done, and that made my day.

I didn't have to know code that well to get my license, after all it was only a 5 wpm requirement. I was in that new crop of 5 WPM General class licensees in that summer of 2000. However, after some hesitation, I did take to the code, and I decided to use it, and I'm glad I did. I have since picked up better rigs, better antennas, tried most all of the modes, done contesting, dxing, rag chewing, home brewing, and most of the things associated with ham radio. I enjoy all the modes and each one of them has its own uniqueness about it, and they all have value. For me, however, I'm glad that my first HF QSO was on CW, and glad it was QRP. I still use QRP today sometimes (although here in the solar minimum it's a bit tougher,) and CW is my favorite mode.

I'm glad I found that scrap of paper today. I brought it home with me, and I think I'll have it mounted. It shows all of the nervously written letters, the incomplete copy of some of the words, and it takes me back to how I felt.

Sometimes, to know where you are heading, it helps to be reminded of where you've been.

Ye Olde Radio Hangout

Eric P. Nichols KL7AJ courtesy of www.eham.net

Yesterday I visited our local *Radio Shack* store to purchase a microammeter. I knew before I even set out that it would probably be a futile exercise, but I thought I'd give them one last chance. For the past few years their motto has been, "You have questions? We have blank stares."

Needless to say, I got the blank stare when I asked for a microammeter. The very last vestige of electronics "componentry" has evaporated from that once-venerable institution. I now have no reason whatsoever to darken that store.

My intent is not to "rag on" *Radio Shack* in particular, but rather to lament yet another lost amateur radio tradition...the radio hangout.

When I was first licensed in 1972, the radio hangout of choice was *Henry Radio* in Los Angeles. It was an event as much as a location. Even if you didn't buy anything there, it was THE place for any ham to hang out on a Saturday morning. We'd swap lies and FT-243 crystals, and operate boat anchors in one of the three jam-packed showrooms. There was always a coffee urn chugging away in the corner, and even though it was unequivocally abominable stuff, it tasted wonderful because it was anointed with memories and adventure.

If you were even remotely interested in radio, stepping into *Henry Radio* would suck you in like a pool of quicksand. If you WEREN'T remotely interested in radio, Henry Radio would still suck you in like a pool of quicksand! It was like a perpetual field day at *Henry*. I don't know how many new hams resulted in unplanned visits to the place, but it was certainly countless.

If you had a question about ham radio...you definitely didn't get blank stares. You got the straight dope! And if the proprietors didn't have the answer (an extremely rare occurrence), some customer loitering around the venerably battered counter most certainly WOULD.

Probably my most memorable experience at *Henry Radio* was when I was still a novice. I was at the counter, looking at SWR bridges or something, and I heard some very jovial conversation from one of the back rooms. The voice was oddly familiar, but I couldn't quite place it. A few seconds later, who should emerge from the radio dungeon but Andy Devine! He was joking around with a couple of the other Henry denizens just like a regular human being. I introduced myself, and told him he was the first actual famous person I'd ever met, and he gave me an autographed eyeball QSL card, and told me I'd get a REAL one after I worked him on the air...a promise he kept a few months later, when I'd gotten my General.

Alas, *Henry Radio* and Andy Devine are both gone...along with far too many ham radio traditions.

I'd venture to say that MOST hams that were licensed as a result of *Henry Radio* are still active, if they're alive. Most hams we license nowadays are seldom heard from again. I believe the lack of radio hangouts like *Henry* are a major reason for our current attrition rate. New hams need to SEE a working station...or we'll never see them again.

It's probably an irreversible end of an era. I don't know if we will ever have the likes of *Henry Radio* again...and I'm not just talking about the American manufacturing aspect. As I mentioned earlier, Henry Radio was as much an event as it was a place. We need to somehow convey that to the next generation of hams...if there is one.

(UPS & TS-950SDX Continued from page 7)

when I asked if it is Kenwood's policy to use a single box when returning customer's radios, he said 'yes, but we insure all shipments out of here.' Did the Kenwood person thank me for the information or apologize for the new damage to the Kenwood 950SDX? **NO**.

Excuse me, but isn't that a little bit like shipping an XKE Jaguar on a car carrier and when you don't chock the wheels you say 'don't worry about your car rolling around in transit, we insure all these cars.'

Should I have expected more out of UPS? Based on their track record, **NO**. Should I have expected more out of Kenwood Cerritos? At first, **yes**. But after hearing their attitude on the phone the second time around... **No**.

The good news is the radio seems to work ok electronically. I think the repair job done by the 950SDX radio tech at Kenwood Cerritos was done well (after the radio's first shipment damage).

Moral of story? Yes, follow your dreams! (But pick up and deliver the goods in person)



For Sale By Owner: KH3

Detailed Property Information: Johnston Island

Property Address: 717 nautical miles Southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii
Johnston Island, HI 96558

Type of the Property:
LAND

Potential Usage:
ecotourism, wildlife
refuge

Sale Method: Written
Auction

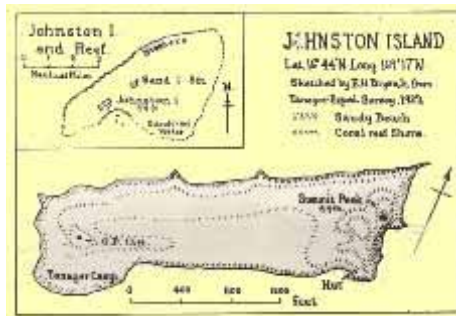
Dimensions and Size of the
Property: 625.81
Acres

Comments: Johnston Atoll consists of four small man-made islands enclosed in an egg-shaped reef approximately 21 miles in circumference. The wildlife refuge on the Atoll is a habitat for 32 species of coral, 300 species of fish, the endangered sea turtle and Hawaiian monk seal, and 20 species of migratory birds. Johnston, the main island, is 1000 yards long and 200 yards wide.

The deed will contain use restrictions because the atoll was used by the Defense Department for storage of chemical munitions and as a missile test site in the 1950's and 60's.

The island can be used as a residence or vacation getaway but it does not have utilities or a water supply. The airstrip and golf course are closed.

<http://propertydisposal.gsa.gov/Property/PropforSale/ShowProperty.ASP?PropertyID=1273>

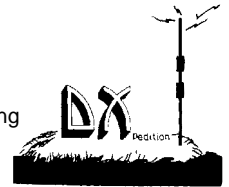


No, this isn't a gag. Yes, the GSA is trying to sell Johnston Atoll. Seems F&WS declined to accept it. But before you start packing your bags... the buildings have all been torn down, the seawall needs major work or it will be breached within 50 years... and it seems that one end of the main island contains a landfill of missile debris... radioactive missile debris... as in plutonium & other fun isotopes left over from an explosion of a nuclear test missile...

"Wise the Old Timer was. Work them, or work them not. There is no try."
(as copied from, I think, an old German Democratic Republic station: Yankee Zero Delta Alpha) — Pete W2IRT

Is he the guy who, when I said I was looking for DX, said "Hmm ... found some, you have." ?? — Zack W9SZ

DX News Briefs



20 operators from the Five Stars DX Association are expected to be QRV as **3B7C** from St. Brandon, running up to 12 stations simultaneously, from 7 through 24 September. They are planning to run monobanders from 30 through 6 meters, verticals on the low bands. Logs will be available on their web site at <http://www.3b7c.com>. Feedback can be sent to 3b7c@g3wgv.com; the team expects to receive the messages on a daily basis. QSL via G3NUG — FSDXA, G4TUT

KCØW has gone into semi-retirement and will be QRV from St. Helena Island as **ZD7X**. QSL via WØMM. See the article on Page 8 — KCØW

EA5BYP has announced that a DXpedition will operate from Equatorial Guinea as **3C7Y** from 5 through 14 October. They plan to be QRV with 2 stations, all bands, CW, SSB & RTTY. QSL via EA5BYP — EA5YN

Effective 7 August, the ITU has changed the prefix of Bosnia-Herzegovina from **T9A-T9Z** to **E7A-E7Z**. The T9 block will be returned to the ITU for future reassignment. The new prefixes have already shown up on the air, old calls will still be used for a few weeks during the transition — DO1DXX

SM5DQC has posted the logs for **9Q1EK** and **9Q1TB** to Logbook of the World. If your call is missing and you would like Osten to do a manual log check, email him at sm5dq@areteads.se — SM5DQC

T18II is currently QRT due to the after-effects of a lightning strike. Carlos reports all logs for **T18CBT**, **T18SP** and **T18II** are on-line at logsearch.de, but his computer is fried. He would appreciate any contributions sent in with QSL requests. — NX7TT

AA3B will be **V26K** 21-26 November, all CW, including an entry in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (SO AB LP). QSL via AA3B — AA3B

The OMØC Contest Crew will be QRV from The Gambia as **C52C** from 17—30 October, on all HF bands & 6 meters, emphasizing the low bands. During the CQ WW they will use **C5ØC**. QSL via OM2FY. Updates available at <http://www.om0c.com/gambia/index.html> — OM2TW

PA3EWP, F5CWU and GM4FDM plan to be in Brunei 4—18 November. QSL **V8FWP** via PA7FM, **V8FWU** via F5CWU, **V8FDM** via GM4FDM. They will be operating from **V85SS**'s QTH, and will be QRV 160—10, CW SSB & RTTY, pending conditions. They will emphasize the lower bands (30 meters & down) and to Western EU and North America. More information at <http://www.v8.pa7fm.nl> — PA7FM, OPDX

VP8CXV is GMØTQJ on East Falkland (SA-002). He will be QRV as spare time permits through 15 January 2008, primarily on SSB but with some RTTY & PSK-31. QSL via his home call — GMØTQJ, OPDX

Several South African operators will be QRV as **3DAØWW** Multi/2 during the CQ WorldWide DX SSB Contest, 27-28 October. QSL via ZS6DXB. More information at <http://www.zs6dxb.bravehost.com> — OPDX

QSL Routes

1A4A via IZ4DPV — F1JKJ	N8S via YT1AD — N7XY
3B7SP via SP9SX — W2IRT	OT7C via F9IE — W4DN
3DAØKDJ via W5KDJ — W5KDJ	P29ZAD via N15DX — K3WI
4W6AAV via HL5FUA — K5AQ	R1FJ via DL6ZFG — W4DN
5H3EE via DL4SM — DO1DXX	R1FJT via UA4RC — N2ZN
5WØNU via YU7NU — K3WI	SU8DLH via DK2CL — KE1JF
A25KDJ via W5KDJ — W5KDJ	SVØWWW via W5KDJ — W5KDJ
A25SL via W5SL — F1JKJ	TF2WJN via W5KDJ — W5KDJ
AHØ/NA8O via JK1FNL — JJ1BDX	TM4IPY via F8DVD — DO1DXX
AP2TN via DJ9ZB — F1JKJ	V44KAI via K2SB — N2ZN
BS7H via KU9C — DO1DXX	VP8SSI via AC7DX — NN3W
FK8GX via W3HNC — K3WI	XT2C via F9IE — W4DN
FW8AA via JA8UWT — W2IRT	YA/LY1Y via LY1Y — VA5DX
FWØMO via OM2SA — HA9PP	YA5Y via DL5SE — NF4L
GB2NNC via MØCNP — DO1DXX	YI9DXX via W4GOV — W2AY
HC7AE via EA7FTR — W2IRT	YI9LZ via LZ1ZF — DO1DXX
HSØAC via RAST — K1SEZ	YLØA via YL2KA — W1EQ
HU1A via T14SU — W2IRT	ZD7X via WØMM — KCØW
HZ1AN via DJ9ZB — F1JKJ	ZK1VVV via W7V — W4DN
LU7HF via EA7FTR — KE3D	ZL8R via VE3XN — 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.



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FCC News

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

Newington, CT, August 30th, 2007 — The Federal Communication Commission's Dallas Field Office issued *Citations* on July 25th to two utilities in a longstanding power line noise case in Lubbock, Texas.

Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, of Lubbock, first reported the interference concerning the two involved utilities, Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) and Xcel Energy, as early as 1994. The record shows that the FCC Dallas Field Office clarified the FCC rules with regard to power line noise for LP&L as early as 1998, and issued three letters to LP&L in 2003 and 2004. Xcel Energy was first issued an FCC letter in 2004.



Mike Gruber, W1MG, of the ARRL's RFI Desk, took the opportunity to visit the site while visiting Lubbock on vacation in September 2005. His findings and subsequent report concluded there was a severe and widespread power line noise problem in the area; the FCC conducted a field investigation later that same month. Despite repeated complaints to the City of Lubbock, the utility companies and the FCC, the problem continued with little or no action from either utility. Robert Darling of the FCC conducted a second field investigation in late May of this year.

Edwards said dealing with LP&L and Xcel is like "night and day. Xcel has been most cooperative and most helpful. Every time I have called, they have responded with an engineer or a service team to check out and try to resolve some of the problems. All my dealings with LP&L have, from the very beginning, been almost adversarial."

Edwards said in the past 15 years, he has dealt with "three mayors, three city managers, two city attorneys and four heads of Lubbock Power & Light, as well as other LP&L employees too numerous to even think about mentioning. I have literally thousands of pages of paperwork, many times that more in promises, attended numerous meetings and it all has resulted in zero results. That's why I finally went to the FCC," regarding the power line noise.

According to Gruber, power line noise continues to be the single most reported noise source to the ARRL. "Some cases have dragged on for more than a decade with little or no resolution, and FCC enforcement is crucial in these cases," he said.

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, said, "I am pleased to see the FCC taking a strong enforcement step in this case. It has gone on for a long time, and this *Citation* should serve to finally get things resolved. It is unfortunate that some of the power line cases the ARRL is handling can't be resolved without the FCC taking formal action, but I expect that electric utilities across the country will now take notice of this case. Every opportunity -- and then some -- was given to both utilities to resolve this without FCC help, but as can be seen in the *Responses* the utilities just sent to the FCC, some of the finger pointing that led to this *Citation* still continues."

Hare also notes that the FCC identified 44 separate noise sources near the complainant. "This shows that it is in utility companies' best interests to resolve interference complaints in a reasonable and timely fashion. In this case, the FCC indicated that the entire system appears to be noisy, with noise levels above the FCC limits for intentional unlicensed transmitters. What could have been addressed by correcting a handful of noise sources now has the FCC looking at the entire system. This is an example of how utilities should not respond to customer complaints about radio and television interference."

Most power line noise sources in fact can be located quickly and economically, Gruber said; many utilities in fact handle power line noise complaints as a matter of routine maintenance. "All it takes is a properly trained RFI investigator with modern noise locating equipment. By using noise signature techniques, the utilities would have had only to address those sources actually contributing to the problem. Now they are given a citation with a laundry list of 44 problem areas, something that could have easily been avoided. The message to utilities here is clear. Don't ignore power line noise complaints! Don't make the FCC get involved!"

[Complete article at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/30/100/?nc=1>]

OKØEMW, an experimental beacon, is now QRV on 505.060 kHz, running 0.95 W ERP from Breclav, Czech Republic. It is transmitting ID and Grid Locator using QRSS3 at 6 WPM CW.

OK2BVG is the beacon operator. Email him with any information at lubomir.bobalik@rtv5.cz

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



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Or contact: Kevin Smith **N3HKQ** or Pat Sanford **KC4WTT** at symposium@amsat.org

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Preliminary Agenda

Thursday, October 25th through Friday noon, October 26th, 2007

- BOD meeting

Friday, October 26th, 2007

- Symposium First Session, 1:00 to 5:00 PM
- Annual meeting, 5:00 to 6:00 PM
- Introduction to Amateur Satellites by Gould Smith, 7:30 — 9:00 PM

Saturday, October 27th, 2007

- Symposium Second Session, 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
- Symposium Third Session, 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM
- Cocktails & Hors Dourves, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- Banquet (Keynote Speaker Mr. Sy Liebergot); 7:30 PM until ?

Sunday, October 28th, 2007

- Area Coordinators meeting; 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
- Tour (details to be announced); 9:00 AM to ?

Who is AMSAT?

- AMSAT is a non-profit volunteer organization which designs, builds and operates experimental satellites and promotes space education.
- We work in partnership with government, industry, educational institutions and fellow amateur radio societies.
- We encourage technical and scientific innovation, and promote the training and development of skilled satellite and ground system designers and operators.
- Our Vision is to deploy high earth orbit satellite systems that offer daily coverage by 2009 and continuous coverage by 2012.
- AMSAT will continue active participation in human space missions and support a stream of LEO satellites developed in cooperation with the educational community and other amateur satellite groups.

About our Keynote Speaker

Sy Liebergot, Apollo Electrical, Environmental, Consumables Flight Controller

Sy Liebergot was the Apollo EECOM and part of the team that guided Apollo 13 back to Earth following the explosion which crippled the spacecraft. Author of "Apollo EECOM: Journey Of A Lifetime"

Web site: <http://www.apolloeecom.com/>



Sy Liebergot: Flight... I recommend we shut down reactant valves to the fuel cells.

Gene Kranz: What the hell good is that gonna do?

Sy Liebergot: If that's where the leak is, we can isolate it. We can save what's left in the tanks and we can run on the good cell.

Gene Kranz: You close 'em, you can't open 'em again! You can't land on the moon with one healthy fuel cell!

Sy Liebergot: Gene, the Odyssey is *dying*. From my chair here, this is the last option.

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(check one ↓)

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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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c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
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Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- AMSAT Symposium News! T-8!
- Wanna buy your own DXCC entity?
- AAAP Wants US for Field Day 2008!
- What's the story with RACES ID cards?
- HB 1777 (PA PRB-1) Now On Line!

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



VITEMA GOVEMCOMMVEH

"Picture is Field Day 2006, my Jeep, low tech, meets high tech, the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Administration, (VITEMA) Communications vehicle. George Cline, KP2G, and I are the only two civilians (and Hams) on St John trained and qualified to operate this Government Emergency Communications Vehicle.

I'm going to be in Pittsburgh October 9th - 10th for a short trip, but don't know if I can get together with anyone or not, I'll let you know"

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007 Paul Jordan NP2JF

The WASHRag

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