



2 M Simplex Time

The [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS](http://www.n3sh.org) wishes to announce our 8th Annual 2 Meter Simplex Contest, to be held on Saturday evening, January 12th, 2008 from 7 PM until 11 PM (EST).

Go to http://n3sh.org/wash_2m_contest_2008.htm for all the information needed to participate. (Complete rules are on Page 5 of this newsletter)

This is not a high powered contest but more of a fun contest and while most of the activity is FM, there is a growing number of SSB and CW only operators who participate.

This is a great contest for those of you who participate in the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes on January 19th and 20th to check your stations out.

Please keep in mind that any club station that participates is worth 3 points, any contact with a [WASH](#) member is worth 2 points and contacts with non-club or non-[WASH](#) members is worth 1 point.

Finally, anyone submitting a log will receive a free prize ticket to [WASHFest 2008](#), our annual South Hills Hamfest™, to be held on Sunday, February 24th, 2008 at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall.



We encourage everyone to take a few hours next Saturday evening to have a little wintertime fun on two meters!

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ for the Contest Committee

Remember when? KE3XB Mobile from the 2001 WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2001, 2008 John Benitez KE3XB

Next Meeting: January 10th, 2008

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

Don AE3DL will give a presentation on Digital Communications. The 2 Meter Simplex Contest & [WASHFest 2008](#) 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!

President's Letter

First, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. The club starts the New Year with two great events:

- On Thursday, January 10th Don , AE3DL, will present a talk on Digital Communications.

- On Saturday, January 12th, [WASH](#) is sponsoring the 8th running of our 2 Meter Simplex Contest. Remember [WASH](#) members count 2 points per QSO so other stations will be actively looking for you.



Don't forget the SSB and CW capabilities of your rig either. Those modes are better for weak signal work than FM and will produce more rare ZIP codes.

Speaking of weak signal work the following weekend (19th and 20th) is the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. The exchange includes your Grid Square – do you know yours? DX on these bands is measured in hundreds rather than thousands of miles unless a rare opening occurs. Antenna height above average terrain and antenna performance really do matter on the bands above 50 MHz.

The club program at the February 14th meeting will be a video of a DXpedition to one of the world's most inhospitable places – South Georgia Island – VP8G.

(President's Letter Continued on page 3)

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Scenes from a Meeting Night

Photos Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



The membership (left) listening to Corky N3MJP (below center) talking about the extensive use of Amateur Radio at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix every year. Incoming President Larry K3VX (below left) and outgoing President Randy N3ZK (below right) are paying attention too!



WASH 2008 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Larry Comden K3VX
 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
Field Day 2008 Coordinator	Randy George N3ZK

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

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

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

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

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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 January 17th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, January 17th, 2008, 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, April 17th, 2008
Thursday, July 17th, 2008
(tentative) Thursday, October 16th, 2008
Thursday, January 15th, 2009

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION'S 15th Anniversary 1993 – 2008

This year marks the 15th Anniversary for WASH. Have any favorite stories or tall tales about the early days of the club? Let us know — we hope to run some of those in future newsletters!!

A cool but bright post-Christmas party morning greeted the **WASH Breakfast Gang** on December 29th at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. Arrivals for hot coffee and good company included W3WH, K3HCR, K3VX, W3WN, N3HKQ & Peg, K3SGT and his lovely bride (sorry Eric, we forgot to write her name down!) and N3BPB. Topics of the day included the VP8GEO video, the January digital presentation, Montserrat, the FJ "mess," Larry's "radio beep" on his new 2 meter rig, digital modes from VP2M, back rubs headaches & Irish whiskey, estate sales, EZNEC, flying to Shanghai, flying to Harrisburg, band pass filtering, limousine pickup, copying old movies to DVD, and many other things that didn't get written due to N3BPB's flirting with our waitress.

So why not join us for a fun morning of fellowship and pancakes? The next **WASH Breakfast** will be on Saturday, January 26th, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road (Route 88) n Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms. See you there!

Our annual **2 Meter Simplex Contest** is coming up. The word has been getting out to the various clubs in our area, and we've seen a lot of discussion about it. Hope it means we have a good turnout this year! We hope to see a lot of activity from within and without the club. Even at the last minute, don't miss an opportunity to "talk it up" to people who ask about it!

Needless to say, pictures of you in operation will be most welcome both for the newsletter and the post-contest write-up. (Yes, that's a hint!)

Our thanks in advance to everyone who's been promoting the contest. It's going to be a lot of fun once again!

Going to the dogs? Speaking of pictures... it's been almost a running joke for years that if club members didn't start sending *in action* photos, Ye Editor was going to start running pictures of his kids and dogs instead. Well, at the December meeting, a few people speculated about doing it "for real," only opening it up to all club members. Fair enough; if you've got a favorite picture of you with your pets & family (with or without radios, though rigs would be nice) send it in. When we get enough, a Special "Pet & Family" Edition of the **WASH Rag** will go out! (Assuming that Lucy Fur, Eater of Coax, doesn't munch the computer cables first!) Who says we can't have a little fun with this sort of thing?

Fifteen years for the club in August. Can you believe it?

2008 Membership: The membership chart over on page 4 shows our "end of year" membership. We're going to start flagging new and renewal members for 2008 next month. Incidentally, if you work someone in the contest who says they're a member and not on the chart, log them anyway. We'll figure it all out later!

WASHFest 2008 is coming up fast. About 2 months away as this is being written. It will be on us before you know it (remember that it's coming up a little earlier in the month than usual!) Kevin N3HKQ has things well in hand, the prizes are fantastic (dibs on the SGC!), and the flyers are out. And we're looking forward to both Section Manager N3MSE and Division Director N3LLR, along with other Section leadership, to be in attendance! Now is the time to start thinking about what you can do to lend a hand out at the 'fest. Let Kevin know as soon as you can — remember, the more that help out, the less each of us have to do! This is THE event for our club, and the kick-off every year for the local hamfest season. We have a reputation for putting on one of the best hamfests of the year, so let's do another good one!

No, Ye Editor is not telling you **who wrote Page 8's story!** More of that to come if you like it, though!

Anyone still interested in operating a **special event station for Pittsburgh's 250th Anniversary** later this year?

President's Letter Continued from Page 1

And, of course, we're all looking forward to a very successful **WASHfest** on Sunday February 24th. Kevin, K3HKQ, will call for the people necessary setup and staff the event.

A recent reflector discussion started by Glen, KE7FD, was a perfect geek squad item — how to securely mount a mobile rig without drilling holes in the dash. Is anyone else planning that kind of mounting and are there members willing to help?

Lastly, I'm asking again if someone(s) will take charge of Simulated Emergency Tests and/or Club participation in our key operating events other than Field Day.

73 and Good DX in 2008,

— 73, Larry Comden K3VX, President
Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/B

WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

01/06 - Hank KB3FNM	04/20 - Harold K3HCR
01/13 - Paul NØVLR	04/27 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
01/20 - Dave N3DFK	05/04 - Frank N3FB
01/27 - Kevin N3HKQ	05/11 - Hank KB3FNM (Mother's Day)
02/03 - Bill W3WH	05/18 - Paul NØVLR
02/10 - Hank KB3FNM	05/25 - Dave N3DFK
02/17 - Harold K3HCR	06/01 - Kevin N3HKQ
02/24 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	06/08 - Bill W3WH
03/02 - Frank N3FB	06/15 - Hank KB3FNM
03/09 - Hank KB3FNM	6/22 - Harold K3HCR
03/16 - Paul NØVLR	06/29 - Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
03/23 - Kevin N3HKQ	07/06 - Frank N3FB
03/30 - Dave N3DFK	Alternates
04/06 - Bill W3WH	
04/13 - Kevin N3HKQ	

An online webinar / teleconference has been announced for amateur radio clubs within the ARRL Atlantic Division. It will be held on Saturday, February 16 10:00 am through noon. Meet with ARRL leadership within the Atlantic Division along with ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen W1KRB, and ARRL Member Volunteer Program Department Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro W3IZ.

Attendance is limited. To register, go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/867561606>

— Bill Edgar
N3LLR, Atlantic Division Director

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2008 Today! Membership Application on Page 15

Minutes, December 13th Meeting

Paul Lusardi NØVLR, Acting Secretary, **WASH**

Randy, N3ZK, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:05 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 November meeting as published in the November newsletter. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): No report.

Secretary (N3FB): No report.

VE Report (N3ZEL): Next VE Session January 17th. Support from club VE's always needed and appreciated.

QSL Manager (N3ZNI): Ed is still getting cards in. K3VX has already started to get cards from his latest Montserrat trip.

Website (N3ZK): It is up and running. There have been many updates, and we need to get the word out to current and potential new members.

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

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): New net schedule for 2008 will be out soon.

Anyone interested in becoming an NCS should contact Kevin. Reminder that N3IDH is almost always available as an alternative.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): No report.

Public Service (N3IDH): A short, impromptu explanation of the importance of Amateur Radio at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (usually the 3rd weekend in July) was given by guest Corky N3MJP. He always needs more operators to shadow the Corner Captains, and will start contacting people interested later in the year.

Contests (K3VX): Upcoming contests include:

- WASH 2 Meter Simplex contest 1/12 7PM -11PM CW/SSB/FM
- ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes 1/19-20
- CQ 160 Meter Contest 1/26
- OK RTTY contest 12/15

Activities (K3VX): Proposed activity agenda for 2008 is in the newsletter.

Quartermaster (K3HCW): Equipment is high & dry in storage.

Newsletter (W3WN): Newsletter is out, larger than usual.

President's Report (N3ZK): Randy thanked the membership for the past year, saying he enjoyed being President, and was looking forward to next year under Larry K3VX. Formally passed the club gavel to Larry.

Old Business:

WASHFest (N3HKQ): Kevin went over the Hamfest details and scheduling with Steve W3SRL. So far, all is on schedule. Flyers will be mailed very soon. The hamfest is registered with the ARRL. Kevin also displayed 2 of the 3 Main Prizes, which he purchased via R&L on their Customer Appreciation Day to take advantage of the discount. (SGC Tuner is on backorder)

New Business:

- W3WH made a motion to hold an Officers (ie Board of Directors) meeting to cut down on minutia at regular club meetings. Meeting would be open to anyone. Possibility of using a Meeting Bridge or other methods to get together also discussed as part of this idea. Officers would report back to the club.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Following Discussion, W3WH moved to table the original motion for three months for evaluation, second by W3WN. Vote to table the motion passed.

- Randy commented that some members are leaving very early. This should be rectified by the monthly programs proposed.
- Randy awarded the Kilowatt Award to Ed N3ZNI and Jacqué N3ZEL in recognition of their continued dedication and hard work for Amateur Radio.

Good of the Order:

- Larry K3VX has some free material from the ARRL

Motion to Adjourn: at 8:00 moved, seconded, voted on, and passed by acclamation.

WASH Spotlight: KW Award



Randy N3ZK (center) presenting Ed N3ZNI (left) and Jacqué N3ZEL (right) the 2007 Kilowatt Award at the December club meeting.

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](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 Fiinleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. Start time is about 8 AM until ????? Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3IVX	N3FB	W3RWS	WASH IMM	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3KOT	N3FPF	W3SRL	KA3UPY	
AE3DL	KB3KQY	N3HKQ	W3VFA	WASH GA	
K3DMM	KB3NSG	N3IDH	W3WH	K3OL	
K3EED	KB3NVL	N3PN	W3WN	KB3IJX	K3EED (George)
(Cindy)	KB3NVM	N3QMV	W4ZE	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3HCR	KB3ORR	N3RDV	W8LEV	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3LGM	KB3PNE	N3RNX	WA3JPP	WASH NY	N3FZ
K3SGT	KB3PSB	N3SBF	WA3RVD	KE3XB	N3KEH
K3VX	KC4WTT	N3TXH	WA4ONC	N3YPB	N3OBD
K3WJL	KE7FD	N3ZEL	WB4GCS	WASH OH	N3SKR
KA3RAO	KN3A	N3ZK	WO3Z	N8DPW	N3SRC
KA3TWI	NØVLR	N3ZNI	Woody	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3DCO	NØWPV	N9OKM	Eicker	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3FNM	N2QIV	NU3S	Lee Rice	Jane Wagner	
KB3GMN	N3AWF	W3BC		WASH VI	
KB3GMP	N3BPB	W3JJC	Jane Wagner	NP2JF	
KB3GMU	N3CZZ	W3LE			
KB3HFP	N3DFK	W3RJM			
KB3HVN					
KB3IAC					
KB3IRQ					
KB3IVW					

Through December 31st, 2007

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Announcing the Eighth Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Eighth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Remember: In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the Ten-Tec 6N2, IC-706 & FT-100, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Maybe next year!)

Everyone who participated in it the last four years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 12th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 12th, 2007 from 7 to 11 PM EST.
(That's January 13th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.520 to 147.580 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 is **not** to be used. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for SSB QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of **WASH** or a Club Station.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3 ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

Scoring: Each Contact, non-**WASH** Member: 1 point

WASH Member: 2 points

(* Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes

Power: Stations running 10 watts or less: 2

Stations running over 10 watts: 1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

(* "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada or equivalent to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. For example, they include **N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W8XK, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible. [In other words, you can't just claim to be a "club" and pick a call, or use the call of a club member; the call must be assigned as a club call]

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the **WASH** web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1st.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 7th, 2008

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to **WASHFest 2008** on February 24th

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

After the first year of the contest, we found that the limited number of frequencies suggested in the rules were insufficient for the activity level. In subsequent years, we permitted use of any recognized simplex frequency, as per the ARRL recommended guidelines published in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory and other sources, above 146.520 MHz.

You will note that many of these frequencies are listed as potential dual use, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

We have been notified that the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC) has issued their own "local" band plan for the 2 meter band, and has elected to withdraw most or all of these dual-use or optional-use frequencies in favor of their being assigned to FM repeaters, primarily those on 1 MHz splits. Although we have not heard of interference problems with any repeater (with ONE exception — the contest participant was notified of interference and immediately moved), good amateur practice requires us to take note of the situation and the potential for interference problems in some parts of Western Pennsylvania where these repeaters exist.

The following list of recommended frequencies are recognized as standard simplex channels and should not suffer from co-channel problems with any existing repeaters:

146.535 MHz	147.525 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.540 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.580 MHz	147.570 MHz
146.595 MHz	

The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, may not be used. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

To be clear, we have no objection to contest participants operating on additional recognized FM "optional" simplex frequencies above 146.520 MHz. Participants who do so run the risk of potential interference with repeaters sharing these frequencies, and therefore do so at their own risk. Again, as per the rules of the contest, if you operate on these frequencies and are notified of actual interference, please exercise good amateur practice and QSY.

We also recognize that the WPRC may continue to be less than happy with this stance. We point out to them that the amateur spectrum is a shared resource. And frankly, if push came to shove, the legality of their "withdrawing" of the frequencies from use by the general amateur population of WPA might be an interesting question before the FCC. (To say nothing of the fact that this change in band plan is probably something most WPA amateurs are unaware of, but that's another story).

Bottom line: Enjoy the contest, but do so responsibly.

Top of the Hill: A Practical Solution (IMHO) for a 160 Meter Antenna

Bill Hill W3WH



Most of us don't have enough room for a full-size 160 meter Dipole or a 100 foot tower to use with a sloper. The result is that most of us ignore "Top Band". This year I found something that is working for me and I'm confident it would work for you.

Last summer I installed a Force 12 Flagpole antenna in my yard. It's just short of 24 feet tall and it works quite well on 40 meters and above. Now I added about 80 feet of wire at the top converting it to an inverted "L". When it's fed with a tuner it makes a good account of itself on 160. I haven't tried it on 80 yet but I see no reason shy it won't work there as well.

As I'm writing this it's about 1/2 way through the ARRL 160 Contest. So far I've logged 256 Q's with 56 sections and 6 DX contacts with the best DX being Italy. I'm thrilled and amazed that this little vertical is playing so well. The sections I'm missing are as you would expect: out west and most of the Canadian's are missing.

I have about 15 or 16 short radials under the antenna. They run through my shrubs and under the deck in kind of a random pattern but the antenna seems happy and true to the saying, it radiates equally poorly (well) in all directions. The antenna consists of several sections of stout aluminum tubing and it comes with the necessary hardware to actually fly our flag. Just to be sure each section is electrically sound, I used wire braid at each joint. I don't know if I needed it but I did it anyway.

The bottom line here is this: Don't let lack of real estate or esthetic concerns stop you from enjoying 160 meters.

FCC License Stats, 4th Quarter 2007

George McCouch K3UD courtesy of www.qrz.com

It looks like the overall Amateur Radio Service numbers have increased by 57 from October through December 2007, compared to the end of the 3rd Quarter of 2007.

Tech/+, General and Extra all had small increases while Novice and Advanced declined, as they always will. It looks like the Technician license is till the most popular license for newcomers. It also seems like the large movement from hams upgrading to General and Extra has slowed down to a trickle.

I should point out that what is being posted here are a comparison of two snapshots of the numbers

taken at two different times and it should also be mentioned that the numbers change every day, sometimes increasing and sometimes decreasing. I always use the last day of previous reporting period and the last day of the present reporting period.

The overall numbers shown are in comparison to what they were as of May 14, 2000, when the code test was dropped to 5 WPM for General and Extra.

Total All Classes (5/14/2000)	674,792	We Gained:	We lost:
Total All Classes (4/21/2003)	687,860 (*)	1,365 Tech/+	
Total All Classes (9/30/2007)	655,711	200 General	698 Novice
Total Loss of 19,024 since 5/14/2000 (Was 674,792)		453 Extra	1,263 Advanced
Total Loss of 32,092 since 4/2003 (*)		+2,018 Total	-1,961 Total
(*) All time high of 687,860		+ 57 Net Gain	

Digital Modes on VHF/UHF

Andy Thornburg KB9WL courtesy of www.eham.net

As my work life slows down and retirement approaches, I have been poking around in some of the newer nooks and crannies of our fine hobby. A while back I finally purchased an interface to bridge the gap between computer and rig. On the advice of several radio buddies, I downloaded and installed Ham Radio Deluxe along with Digital Master 780.

Wow, they were right! HRD/DM is some fine software. Simon Brown is quite a programming craftsman.

So, I have been having fun using PSK, RTTY, Olivia, and other interesting modes via the HF bands. It is interesting to note that many times my digital QSO partner is running 20 to 50 watts into a modest antenna. I have experienced contacts in which the tones could not be heard in the station speaker. It is easy to conclude that the marriage of sound card and nifty software does deliver effective keyboard-to-keyboard communications.

After a bit, I started to think about trying these cool digi-modes on weak signal paths. I queried my 6m friends, posted some solicitations on some boards, and generally tired to stir this pot. I did round up a small number of ops and we conducted some tests.

The results were generally poor. The typical test partner was not truly configured for weak signal operation. (Low takeoff angle and high ERP)

Operating digimode on 6m or 2m is still an intriguing prospect. Before I wrap up, I must state the following: I am aware of the work Joe Taylor has done and I have downloaded his WSJT suite. It is very interesting also. My current interest is in the "chatty" modes, at least for now.

Here are some questions that still bug me:

Digital Modes Continued on Page 11

2008 WASH Meeting Night Program Topics

& Other Significant Club Events on the 2008 Calendar — Subject to Change

January 10 th	Digital Modes	<i>To Be Announced</i>
January 12 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI, Chairman
January 17 th	WASH VE Exams	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Leader (724) 746-9235
February 14 th	DX-Peditions	<i>To Be Announced</i>
February 24 th	WASHFest 2008	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman
March 13 th	Pizza Night & Socializing	
April 10 th	Out Of Shack Operating: Mobile, Portable, Rover	<i>To Be Announced</i>
April 17 th	WASH VE Exams	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Leader (724) 746-9235
May 8 th	ARRL Section Manager & Section Leadership Talk and Q&A	John Rodgers N3MSE
May 16 th - 18 th	Dayton Hamvention	
June 1 st	Breezeshooter's Hamfest and WASH Picnic	
June 12 th	Antennas: Dipoles, Beams, Verticals, Tuners	<i>To Be Announced</i>
July 10 th	Swap & Shop: Junqué, Freebies, Good Stuff	<i>To Be Announced</i>
July 17 th	WASH VE Exams	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Leader (724) 746-9235
August 14 th	Antennas: VHF & UHF	<i>To Be Announced</i>
September 11 th	Contests: Warm-Up for the Season	<i>To Be Announced</i>
October 9 th	Hi-Tech: APRS, ARF, SDR, EchoLink, D-Star	<i>To Be Announced</i>
October 11 th & 12 th	51 st Annual, 2008 Pennsylvania QSO Party	
October 16 th	WASH VE Exams	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Leader (724) 746-9235
November 13 th	Emergency Communications	<i>To Be Announced</i>
December 11 th	Boat Anchors & Antique Radios	<i>To Be Announced</i>

The Radio Adventures of Carl & Quinn: The MX-2007

Lynn Richards AAAZZZ

I had been a very good boy this year and made every overture and hint possible to my XYL about several new rigs on the Amateur market. From worn out and tattered EAS catalogs carefully creased on strategic pages left in the “reading room”, to casually made comments that she could hear when operating 2 Meters mobile. The Heathkit HW-101 I built as a new General class licensee nearly 35 years ago had so many fixes made to it I could probably call it the Carlkit HW-101. I could have bought something myself but I needed both her buy-in to me getting a new radio as well as buying it for me, hoping she would spend more than I dare to spend on myself. Christmas morning, Santa did not disappoint me. Under the tree was the latest and greatest amateur rig, the all-mode Icsuwood *MX-2007*!

This top-of-the-line transceiver covers DC to daylight, EIGHT 256-bit floating point DSP IF filters and a 128-bit AD/DA converter, an integrated *dbx* 2031 single 31 band graphic equalizer, an HD color video output mated to the integrated HD 7 inch color LCD, 4 Gigs of video memory two quad-core Antel 6.3 GHz processors with 2 Gigs of cache, and system memory of 1 Terabyte (upgradeable to 4 Terabytes), of which a dynamic-scalable non-volatile RAM drive operates. The operating system is a version of Linux customized for Amateur Radio. Add to that, 500 watts for HF, 300 watts for VHF/UHF and 100 Watts for SHF/EHF power delivered to a selectable bank of 6 antenna outputs mated with 6 ATU's. Four quad conversion receivers in real-time, with built-in band pass filtering for transmissions/reception on any two bands simultaneously, image rejection of 120dB on HF/VHF, four spectrum analyzers, a smooth touch screen front panel (no knobs to get grungy) and a 87,000 word voice control feature in 8 languages. Dual TNC's, integrated GPS, redundant power supplies, dedicated chilled finals, computerized mode recognition signal switching, recognition of QSO's for logging and mapping (one USB cable supplied), satellite mode, 802.11n WIFI, rack mountable or desktop... Just to mention a few of the more modest features of the rig.

(The radio also has available optional pseudo holographic output to display both direct and long-path signals. The XYL didn't opt for this as we already had two mortgages on the house.)

Wanting to savor every bit of the experience of having such a cutting edge radio I began by reading the ‘Unpacking Guide’ located in a thick envelope attached to the outside of the crate of the main unit. But after a few minutes I set it aside, as I grew too anxious to absorb what was printed. I wanted to fire this baby up. I called my buddy, Quinn AAA3AMP to come over and help move it in to the shack. After some lunch in front of a roaring fire and another quick glance at the guide, Quinn showed up almost as eager as I was to get this rig on the air. We each took an end of the waist-high crate and lifted. Under his breath I could hear him say “They ought to call this thing ‘The Hernia Maker’”. After 5 minutes of hefting the box down the hall and one quick trip to the water-closet (Quinn), we got it into the shack and while he carefully removed each and every nail from the crate lid I cleared a spot at the operating position. When he pried the top off, he stepped back and said, “Dude, you take it from here, it's your rig”. Resting in a compartment in the top of the packing were two DVDs and a five ring binder marked READ ME first. Without touching another thing we settled into taking turns reading aloud the introduction of the Operators Manual. I could tell he was getting impatient as was I so we just set the manual on the table and lifted the top layer of packing out of the crate. There it was, the *MX-2007* with its beige cover, spotless smooth front panel and best of all - that new radio smell. I had arrived!

After we lifted it carefully out of the crate and set it gently down on the bench I proceeded to connect the wireless keyboard and optical mouse, iambic paddles, the included Heil PR-781 gold plated professional grade mic, boom mount and foot switch, the antenna cables (I only had two antennas: a G5RV and an 80 meter cloud burner) and then the TWO power cords for the redundant power supplies. But where were the power cords? Quinn looked in the crate. Nothing. Then I looked. Still nothing. Feeling a bit frustrated at being shorted two simple things like power cords, I reached into the junk drawer in my desk for a couple of spares I kept. That's when Quinn said “Hey. These sockets for power? They don't look like anything I've ever seen before”. Sure enough, under a cover on the back of the rig were the oddest looking power connectors I have ever seen. There were 6 pins in circular fashion each about an 8-gauge in size protruding from the back of the rig. We looked at each other then he said, “Better find the power cords”. So we looked again only more methodically at each scrap of debris that came out of the box. Again nothing that even resembled a power cord of any kind.

“Look in the manual, maybe it says something about it” Quinn added. Scanning through the diagrams and index the only mention of a power cord was about plugging them in *and* finding the cords in the same envelope with the Unpacking Guide. I walked briskly down the hall to the Christmas tree where I had been reading the *Unpacking Guide* and where my wife had gathered up all the torn wrapping paper and had tossed everything not tied down into the roaring fire. Could it be? I did a quick once over the room but my ear caught the sound of crackling and sizzling coming from the fireplace. Then, I smelled it: burning rubber! NO!!!! I grabbed the poker and started digging around the flames and coals, my wife and Quinn came running in and began chocking on a cloud of black smoke filling the living room. Having lost my presence of mind, my wife shut the tempered glass windows on the fireplace and snapped, “Carl! WHAT are you doing?” I almost blurted out that she had thrown the power cords into the fire when I stopped short and just said, “The radio. The cords. The power cords. The power cords are in the fire.” “Oh, I'm so sorry honey. But they're just power cords. You can go to Radio Shack tomorrow and get another one I'm sure, don't ya know.”

According to the sales rep at EAS it turns out the power cords are back ordered from the overseas manufacturer, and should be in by mid February.....

December 31, 2007, 0000 UTC, 2008 Straight Key Night

Carl is tuning up his HW-101...

The ultimate top of the line MX-2007 covers DC to Daylight, 8 DSP IF Filters, a 128 bit A/D & D/A converter, 500 Watts for HF, WIFI, Linux, Dual TNC's voice control... the ultimate transceiver ...so what could go wrong?

DXCC Rules & St. Barthelme Eligibility



Bill Kenamer K5NX (ex K5FUV), Former ARRL Member Services Manager
 Courtesy of *the Daily DX* <http://www.dailydx.com/barthelemy.htm> & Bernie McClenny W3UR

I've heard from many of my DX friends recently, so perhaps a short technical treatise about some of the DXCC rules might be in order.

When the DXCC 2000 rules were being considered, one of the prime considerations was to move determination of what was a Political Entity from arbitrary determination of the ARRL to internationally recognized third parties, such as the UN, ITU, and (originally) IARU. By using certain lists promulgated by these organizations, and originally selected to include as many entries as possible on the pre-1998 DXCC List, it was possible to come up with possibilities to include entities as Political. As amended, they are a) the UN Member list, b) the ITU prefix bloc assignment list, and c)(i) the U.S. Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" as having a local "Administrative Center," or (ii) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories."

Also, at the time, there were reasons to determine when Entities would be added to the DXCC List. These "reasons" became defined in the DXCC List Criteria as "Events". In short form, an Event is simply what happens to make an Entity eligible to be added to the DXCC List. In the case of Political Entities, the only Event that allows a new Political Entity to be placed on the DXCC List is the addition to one of the lists listed in a), b) or c) in the preceding paragraph.

Since we now know that it takes an "Event" to trigger an addition to the DXCC List, then determination must be made as to when the Event occurred. In the case of a Political Entity the only Event that can trigger the addition is to appear on one of the aforementioned lists, thus the "Event Date" is the date that the Entity is added to one of these lists. This then becomes the "Start Date" for DXCC purposes.

It is important to remember that the DXCC rules since 1998 are in no way related to any precedents before 1998. In other words, just because something may have appeared to have been decided some way in the past does not mean there would be any application in the present or future. As the one who actually came up with many of these rules regarding addition procedures, I can say with certainty that there is absolutely no ambiguity in the procedures for adding Political Entities. These rules are meant to be followed and interpreted strictly. Thus, for Political Entities, they must be on the aforementioned lists in order to be added. If they are not, then they won't be.

Since there is now a particular case out there which seems to have caused some to be confused about how the rules work, then there is opportunity to use this situation as an example of how the DXCC List Criteria should be applied. The case is the example of [French Saint Martin \(FS\)](#) and [Saint Barthelemy \(FJ\)](#). Saint Martin was added to the DXCC List in 1955, containing the area encompassing "all French territory within the limits of 17 and 19 degrees north latitude and 62 and 64 degrees west longitude." This includes the island of Saint Barthelemy. Thus, from the addition of Saint Martin in 1955, both islands have been part of the same DXCC Entity.

The fact that Saint Martin was on the pre-1998 DXCC List becomes important when considering the current situation. In February, 2007, both Saint Martin and Saint Barthelemy changed their governmental status and became Overseas Collectives of France. This, in and of itself, made absolutely no difference in the DXCC status of either. The only thing that could make a difference would be addition of one or the other to the lists above. In fact, both were added as of 14 December to the US State Department Dependencies. This would then become the "Event Date" for a possible addition to the DXCC List.

Some have questioned why one was added and not the other, or possibly why there was not a removal of Saint Martin and addition separately of both. A reading of 5. Removal Criteria reveals the reason for this, i.e., "An Entity may be removed from the (DXCC) List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added. However, if the Entity continues to meet one or more currently existing rules, it will remain on the List". Thus, Saint Martin was on the pre-1998 DXCC List, with no real reason given as to why it was added (but presumably separation from France), and even though its status has now changed from "grandfathered" to Political Entity, since it now still qualifies on the Political Entity Criteria, it remains on the DXCC List unchanged. This is exactly what the Removal Criteria provides for, and the purpose for this is to obviate the need to work the same geography twice without a compelling reason (and for no small reason, to lessen the workload on the DXCC Desk).

The addition of Saint Barthelemy to the US State Department Dependency list, on the other hand, did trigger an addition to the DXCC List. Again, since only the addition to the list, and not the change in status by the French government can trigger the addition, then the Event Date becomes 14 December, 2007, and the addition may be made.

Since all Political Entities are added by administrative action as of their Event Date (per DXCC List Criteria), then Saint Barthelemy will be added. Dave Patton made exactly the correct decision on this one. Again, there is no ambiguity in the DXCC List Criteria. Everything is very cut and dried.

Have fun working it!

But will FJ/OH2AM count?

Before the FJ/OH2AM DX-pedition came to an end on December 26th,

complaints began from Amateur operators on or connected to St. Bart's, that there were serious questions regarding whether or not the team of OH2BH and OHØXX was strictly within the rules of DXCC.

At first glance, many prominent DX'ers dismissed the complaints as nothing more than "sour grapes." Most of them seemed petty at best — for example, one complaint was that Martti & Olli chartered a private boat for their final leg of the journey (due to a strike); another was that they allegedly didn't contact some of the local hams beforehand, and that they didn't properly inaugurate the newest DXCC entity with a ceremony involving a banquet and a toast!

One complaint, though, may have some validity. It is alleged by Laurent Beugnet F6GOX/FJ5BL, President of ARP Radio-Club de Paris, in a letter sent to the DXCC on December 27th & posted on the web (see http://arp75.free.fr/Lettreaucomitedxcc_english.pdf), that the operation should not be considered for DXCC credit due to two related problems:

- The OH2AM call, a club call, is not permitted under Finnish radio regulations to be used outside of Finland;
- and as such, operation of the OH2AM club call as FJ/OH2AM is not valid under Finnish, French and CEPT regulations.

The DXCC desk, as of newsletter deadline, has made no decisions on the complaint. However, one has to wonder about the allegations. On the one hand, OH2BH is known as a meticulous planner. Is it possible that Martti, of all people, overlooked such a trivial detail as the validity of a club call? On the other hand, is this allegation about the assorted radio regulations valid, and if so, how serious is it? The club call is a valid, issued, active club call... and the timing and manner in which this was brought to light makes one wonder about the author's motives (it is reminiscent of a police officer thumbing through the rule book trying to find a reason after the fact to justify the traffic stop he just made).

The DXCC is caught between the proverbial rock & hard place. If they accept the operation, they will be charged by some with "playing favorites" to one of the top DX'ers in the world. If they don't, they'll be charged by others with harping on a minor technical point. Either way, DX politics at play. WFWL!



3B7C Gear Stolen

Various sources including RSGB, QRZ.COM, and the NJDXA News Reflector

We regret to report that some of the equipment that was loaned for the Yaesu sponsored 3B7C DXpedition was stolen when the container returned to the UK.

It would be appreciated if you could please look out for any of the following being offered for sale or trade in, and if seen then please contact the police quoting the following Incident Number.

- Crime Incident number : 44070539181
- FT-2000 100W Serial number 7D170271
- FT-2000 100W Serial number 7D170459
- FT-847 100W HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver 3C131053
- FT-847 100W HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver 3C131054
- VP-1000 Quadra Power Supply unit 7F920017

Yaesu UK is offering a reward for information leading to the conviction of the criminals responsible. See <http://www.rsgb.org/news/hl6.php>

Solar Cycle 24 has arrived!

The Solar Influences Data analysis Center (SIDC) at the Royal Observatory of Belgium has said that Solar Cycle 24 has arrived!

In the SIDC Bulletin, 4th January <http://sidc.oma.be/products/meu/index.php> they say:

No flaring activity is expected in the coming days.

Active geomagnetic conditions (up to K=4) are expected over the weekend due to the influence of a recurrent coronal hole.

Catania solar observatory reports the presence of a high latitude sunspot group. MDI images show a bipolar structure.

This bipole is however the first of the new solar cycle which actually develops into a visible sunspot group.

Solar cycle 24 has arrived!

— Courtesy of Urb LeJune W2DEC & the NJDXA DX News Reflector

Digital Modes Continued from Page 6

1. Can we demonstrate the claimed 10 to 13 db below the noise success using Olivia on a 6m or 2m tropo hop?
2. Will PSK, MFSK, or Olivia outperform CW in a truly adverse weak signal situation? (CW delivers below the noise with good ears)
3. Can digi on QRO 6m ops fill in the so-called distance gap between troposcatter and ionoscatter -- (paths too long for troposcatter and too short for ionoscatter)

Please comment if you have been trying this stuff on 6m, 2m, or 432. I would love to hear about your results. Lastly, drop me an email at kb9wl@arrl.net if you would like to make a schedule.

Silent Keys



David J. Leiser K3NPX, 65, of Freedom PA, January 1st. Dave was the Emergency Coordinator for Beaver County for over 25 years and a well known fixture in SWPA Amateur Radio circles.

DX News Briefs

As noted on page 9, due to its changed political status, the island of **St. Barthelemy (FJ)** is now a separate entity on the DXCC list. This new entity should be easy to work over the next few months, as many operations are planned for it over the coming months, including:



- W6IZT will be QRV from FJ5KH from St. Barthelemy as **FJ5KH** 9—11 January, and from Sint Maarten as **PJ7/W6IZT** 11-13 January. He will be QRV on CW, SST, and RTTY. QSL both via W6IZT — W6IZ
- F6EXV and JR2KDN are now QRV through 20 January as **FJ/F6EXV** and **FJ/JR2KDN** with 2 complete stations. QSL via home calls. — F5NQL
- **FJ/AH8DX** will be QRV during the ARRL DX Contest 1–2 March. He will do WARC & RTTY before & after the contest — NG3K

J5C is expected to be QRV from Bubaque Island (AF-020) starting no earlier than 1500 Z on 23 January. Complete details on this DX-pedition can be found on their web site at www.j5c.eu QSL via F5TVG — F5NQL

ZS6GCM is currently on Bouvet Island and is QRV as **3YØE**. He is a relatively new ham and not experienced with HF operations and pileups, so if you try to work him, please go slow and be patient! A web page has been created for him at www.3yøe.com — ZS6DXB, F5PFP

The Sir Francis Drake Report: The Radio Society of Sri Lanka is alleging that Ivan **4S7DXG** is operating without a current valid license and claiming to operate from an IOTA island that he is not actually located on. WFWL, but be aware that this one has problems! — 4S7VK

A52AM license has been revoked by Bhutan for various violations, including excessive power and illegal use of an amplifier. The DXCC Desk has indicated that this operation is not good for DXCC. See http://www.darc.de/ausland/new/auslref_dokumente/bicma_a52am.pdf for details — ARRL, DARC, G4WOT, DX QSL Reflector

9Q1TB reports that his recent operation as **TN/9Q1TB/p** is also not being accepted for DXCC — 9Q1TB, KP4BJD

G5XW will be on a backpacking holiday in Morocco 13—23 February, and plans to be QRV as **CN2XW** with minimal equipment — G5XW

Look for **3A/ON5NT** 23-27 January, QRV mostly during his morning & evening hours — ON5NT

RTTY DX'ers should be on the lookout for YL2GM during the CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest as **D4C** 9—10 February. YL2KL will activate **D4C** during the ARRL DX CW contest the following weekend. More info at <http://www.d4c.c>. QSL D4C via IZ4DPV — OPDX

QSL Routes

3B7C via G3NUG – KT4U	OX3XR via OZ3PZ – VA5DX
3D2WW via JA8BMK – F1JKJ	P29NI via G3KHZ – JJ1BDX
5L2MS via PA3AWW – G4FTC	P29VLR via SM6CVX – W3AWU
5X1NH via G3RWF – DO1DXX	PJ2/NØVD via W3Hnk – NØVD
8Q7GS via IZ7ATN – DO1DXX	PJ4/NØVD via W3Hnk – NØVD
9M6XRO via M5AAV – EA4ZK	V26B via KA2AEV – KA2AEV
A25KDJ via W5KDJ – W5KDJ	V26H via KU4BP – KU4BP
AHØBT via 7L1FPU – F1JKJ	V31KO via K4NO – N2ZN
B1Z via EA7FTR – HA9PP	VP5/NØVD via W3Hnk – NØVD
C91KDJ via W5KDJ – W5KDJ	VP8CXV via GØTQJ – W2IRT
CN8KD via EA5XX – WA3FRP	VP8DIZ via G7KMZ – EU7SA
DT8A via HL2FDW – W3WN	XQØX via CE3ESS – NN3W
E51NOU via N7OH – UA3FDX	XW1A via E21EIC – JA1HGY
EE5E via EA5RS – W3WN	YN2N via TI2OHL – JA1HGY
EY8MM via K1BV – DO1DXX	YW5AS via DM4TI – W3AWU
HQ9R via K5WW – DO1DXX	Z29KM via EA7FTR – W3Hnk
J3/NØVD via W3Hnk – NØVD	Z36A via DJØLZ – DO1DXX
J79CO via F6COW – EU7SA	ZB2X via OH2KI – JA1HGY
KHØO via JA2FJP – W2IRT	ZD7X via WØMM – JA1HGY
KL7/K6VVA via N6AWD – W3AWU	ZL7/SP9PT via SP9PT – EU7SA7

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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For Sale: N3XI Antenna System. See box to the right for details

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC Rule Making News

Tim Gorman ABØWR courtesy of www.eham.net



The FCC has released Public Notice report 2828-Correction establishing a new comment period for RM-11392.

You may read the document at http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6519008574

RM11392 asks the FCC to re-establish the narrowband nature of the RTTY/Data sub-bands in the 80 through 10 meter bands. Emissions have crept into the narrowband RTTY/Data sub-bands in the 80 through 10 meter bands that are not appropriate for the RTTY/Data sub-bands. Stations under automatic control have taken advantage of loopholes created by terminology in the commission's rules that is not applicable to new operating modes.

Please read RM-11392. and make comments to the FCC. Here are the steps.

1. Read http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6519008574 and http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6519008575
2. Look at the other comments filed. To do this go to FCC EFCS Search for Filed Comments and enter RM-11392 in box 1 labeled proceeding.
3. Enter your own comments by going to the FCC Electronic Comment File Submission page.

This petition was submitted to the FCC by Mr. Mark Miller N5RFX. It is a well written petition with significant technical support within the petition.

E7 — New Prefix For Bosnia-Herzegovina Now Official

"In response to a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina in August, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) withdrew the call sign prefix allocation T9A-T9Z for Bosnia and Herzegovina and made a new allocation, E7A-E7Z. The change was made initially on a provisional basis, and is effective November 17, 2007."

Amateur Radio station licenses bearing E7 prefixes will be issued beginning in January 2008, and the use of other prefixes will be phased out.

It saddens me greatly but because of a personal situation the time has come for me to have to entirely liquidate my N3XI station. Up for sale is:

- Mosley Pro 57B HF Antenna with 7 elements for 10, 12, 15, 17, 20 meters.
- Pair of vertically co-phased Mosley 2 meter yagis with 9 elements ea on a stacking boom with phasing harness.
- US Tower HDX-555 heavy duty crank up 55' tower with thrust bearing and 18' heavy wall mast.
- M Squared 2M18XXX, 18 element 2 meter antenna for DX and moon bounce.
- 200 Feet of 1 5/8 inch hardline to feed the antenna and high power remote switches.
- Heavy duty Yeasu G-1000DXA rotor and control box.
- ~200 feet LMR-400

I think many of you know my station's capabilities; from a 200 mi daily 2 meter FM radius to Moon Bounce to HF DX where one call gets you an instant response through the biggest pile ups. It is not about how much power you have but rather size and configurations of the antennas. The N3XI setup has talked to JA with less than 1 watt on HF and to Canada with less than 1 watt on 2 meters. It even let Dr. John (KE3XB/2) check into the **WASH** net from Rochester, NY on his Yaesu VX-1R! I hope now maybe it could be somebody else's pride and joy.

All three of the antenna systems are contained on the same tower/mast with no problems with interactions (for weak signal work it is best to use one band at a time). The equipment is 1 to 8 years old and it in perfect working condition. The cost for the system was around \$8,500. I hope to get an offer around half of the new value since the system is not very old and all of the engineering done and a track record established, but I will consider any and all offers (within reason). I can even assist with the takedown and reassembly.

— 73 Frank Sanns N3XI frank@jamescentre.com cell 412 491-4704

Now in our *THIRTEENTH* big year!



WASHfest 2008

The South Hills Hamfest

Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 24th, 2008

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch provided
by *JACK'S CATERING*
of Peters Township

FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of *HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES*
of Canonsburg, PA

MAIN PRIZES — *You've Got to play to WIN!*



- 1st Prize: Kenwood TS-480SAT
- 2nd Prize: Kenwood TH-D7A
- 3rd Prize: SGC SG-239 HF Smarttuner

Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Kevin Smith N3HKQ at (724) 228-4153 or Bill Hill W3WH at (724) 746-1776

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
111 Watson Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063-1045

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2008



I would like to join WASH!. I am interested in the following type of membership: **New Membership** **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter \longrightarrow)
(check one \downarrow)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec	
<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): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

New Members Only:

I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla. The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals. Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



Join the American Radio Relay League or Renew Your Membership through the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.



Members of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS can start a new membership or renew an existing membership in the American Radio Relay League, the National Organization of Radio Amateurs, through the club. Benefits for you: Joining and participating in everything the League has to offer, including a QST subscription. Benefits for the club: A few more shekels for our coffers.

Just fill out the form below, include a check or money order made out to WASH/ARRL, and return all to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US
- Age 65 or older, \$36 in US
- Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)
- Canada \$49
- Elsewhere \$62
- Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)

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

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- It's 2 Meter Simplex Contest Time!
- So what did YOU get for Christmas?
- We have a new DXCC Entity... complete with controversy!
- WASHFest 2008 Prizes Here!

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



Nostalgia: Remembering Manhattan's Radio Row

"Greenwich Street, showing Lou Resnick selling radio and television along with sports equipment at No. 166 through to Oscar's at No. 176. In between is Stewart's at No. 169, Maxim at No. 170, Radio Row at No. 172 and Nat Unget at No. 174½. A quick crew cut at the Veteran's Barber Shop, No. 174, was available to radio store shoppers."

As all radio history buffs know, Cortlandt Street, and Greenwich, Dey, and Liberty Streets made up "Radio Row". In the 1960's, the area was redeveloped as the site of the World Trade Center.

Pittsburgh's Radio Row? Remember when Tydings Company & Cameradio were downtown? Try and find those storefronts today...

Photo courtesy of Francis H. Yonker ©Copyright 1996 John V. Terrey

The WASHRag

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



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