



WASHFest 2008

It's February and that means **WASHFest!**

Being the first time that I am chairman might lead you to think that I am nervous. Well I am not and its either because I am ignorant of what is in store or I am supremely confident. It's the latter but I am supremely confident in you, the members of **WASH**. I may have done the ground work up to now but the real work begins this month when everyone pitches in to carry the event off. And I know you will come through as you always do.

One thing that I grown to appreciate is the money it takes just to get to 8:00 AM Sunday, February 24th. To date I have spent a little over \$2000 of the club's hard earned money and we will spend another \$800 before we open the doors to the public. It's a little scary to think what we have to earn back before we make any profit. Pray, cross your fingers or do whatever to help us have good weather. We don't need another storm like last year.

There are a number of duties that I will need help with but I will mention those on the club reflector and the upcoming meeting. Look to the reflector for updates and requests as we approach the big day. In the meantime talk up **WASHFest** whenever you can and encourage area hams to attend. Thanks for all of your help.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Chairman, **WASHFest 2008**

Reminder: Meeting Location Changed for March!

The March Meeting will be held at the new WPXI-DT Studios and will include a tour of the facility, all courtesy of Frank Bobro N3FB

Next Meeting: February 14th, 2008

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

A video on the VP8GEO Dxpediton will be shown. The 2 Meter Simplex Contest wrap-up & **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

Wanted: One of the great things about activating a rare DX QTH or a rare county in the PA QSO Party or even a rare Zip Code here in our backyard is the "wanted" feeling.



The hunted rather than the hunter. I'm sure the deer pursued by the wolf or the rabbit in the talons of the hawk doesn't feel that way. So is ham radio peculiar? February's program is a video of the VP8GEO DXpedition to South Georgia Island. Come find out what drives hams to undertake arduous, dangerous and expensive DXpeditions. Would you do this just for the satisfaction of doing it?

Wanted: Your participation in club activities. Contact Kevin N3HKQ about helping at **WASHFest 2008** on Sunday, February 24th.

How about attending the tour of the new digital studios of WPXI and eating lots of

(President's Letter Continued on page 2)

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President's Letter

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pizza on Thursday, March 13th? The pizza celebrates a successful **WASHFest**. Chief Engineer Frank, N3FB, will guide us thru the digital TV world. Carpooling recommended.

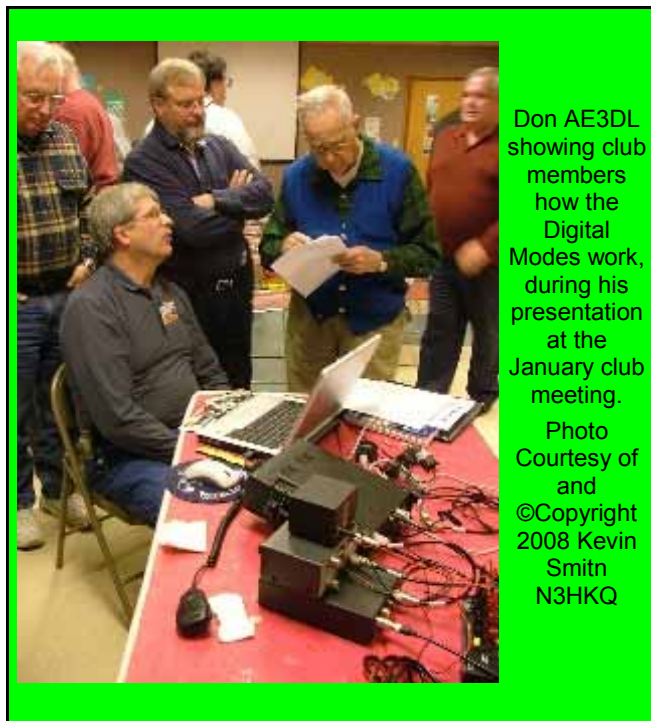
And don't forget the upcoming **Breezeshooters Groundwave** Contests: CW Feb 16th and SSB March 15th both run 7 PM to Midnight. A note to whoever organizes these: Why is the CW on the date of the ARRL DX CW contest and the SSB on the date of the ARRL DX SSB?

Wanted. Help, materials and cash to complete the tower trailer. The needs are:

- 1 Set of 3 temporary guy wires and temporary anchors
- 1 Fire Extinguisher
- 1 First Aid Kit
- Grip Tape for safety
- Rope
- Permanent Cover (for Storage)
- Pulleys
- Carabineers
- More leveling jacks
- Levels for each out-rigger
- Steel Frame support structure for the Out-Riggers
- More storage boxes
- Danger Tape (Donated on 8/9/07 KB3FMN)
- Trash Bags
- Fuel Can for Generator
- (2) Rotor Plates, 1 for the rotor and 1 for the thrust bearing - \$112.00
- Thrust Bearing - \$107.00

The club needs this finished by Field Day 2008. Contact Randy N3ZK or Paul NØVLR for more information.

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



Don AE3DL showing club members how the Digital Modes work, during his presentation at the January club meeting.
Photo Courtesy of and
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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 April 17th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, April 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, July 17th, 2008
 Thursday, October 16th, 2008
 Thursday, January 15th, 2009
 Thursday, April 16th, 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 sunny Saturday morning brought forth the **WASH Breakfast Gang** January 26th at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. Early birds included N3DFK, K3VX, K3HCR, N3HKQ & Peg, W3WH, KB3FNM & Mary Lou, AE3DL, W3VFA and W3WN. Conversations drifted around the table over K3 shipping, Girl Scout cookies, fund raising, beards & David Letterman, the Swan "3 Drifty," medical tests, the Classic Radio Exchange, Viking Rangers, Tydings Company, Single Band Heathkits at Field Days past, the club's 15th Anniversary, TA33 antenna, trees as sky hooks, N3HKQ's "big raise," wasp nests, WinLink, FiOS installation, the Butternut HF5V, Vonage, Flex 5000 radio, weak signal work with HAARP, stereophonic CW, and a lot more to boot.

We sure hope to see you this month. So why not join us for a fun morning of fellowship and home fries? The next **WASH Breakfast** will be on Saturday, February 23rd, 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** has come and gone. Early word is that once again, everyone participating had a great time. Logs were due in to N3ZNI by February 7th, so if you're running late, contact Ed and see what he can do. We should have the results in time for **WASHFest** and the March newsletter.

The "**WoofRag**" is slowly coming together. There's not a definite time table yet, but we don't want to see this drag out too long. Got a photo of your pets, your kids, your family that you'd like to share? (Radio related is even better!) Get it in to Ye Editor and we'll take it from there.

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

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

2008 Membership: As you can see from Page 4, membership renewals have been coming in fast and furious. If you've renewed, great! Thanks for coming back! If you haven't yet... no time like the present. And remember, you can handle it quick and painlessly on-line at the club web-site via PayPal, thanks to Randy N3ZK.

WASHFest 2008 is just a few short weeks away. The 24th will be here before you know it! Table reservations are starting to pick up, which is always a good sign. Interest from the local amateur community is peaking, as it should. All according to plan... but never forget that for the club to have a successful hamfest, we need you.

If all goes according to plan, we should have access to the hall shortly after the club breakfast on Saturday. Less than an hour is all it takes to set up the tables. (If we don't, then we need to be at the hall at 5 AM on Sunday). We need some people at the hall at 6 AM on Sunday to help vendors check in, haul in their stuff, and set up; to brew coffee; and to help with parking. During the rest of the day, help parking, help at the door, help at talk-in, help at the club table, help selling tickets... sound like a lot of work? It isn't. Especially if everyone does a little bit.

If you know when you're going to be available, let Kevin N3HKQ know so that he can plan accordingly. If you're not sure, let him know anyway. Won't know until the last moment if you can make it? Come anyway, we can always use the help.

Remember that this is our big moment to shine. We have a good reputation for putting on one of the best hamfests in Western PA, and the added perk of being the first one of the year. (To say nothing of being our major revenue source to fund the year's projects and events).

We all pull together, we can get a lot done with a relative easy, and have a lot of fun doing it. See you there!

Reminder: The **March Meeting & Pizza Party** has been moved to WPXI for our tour of their new Digital TV studios. More details next month!

WASH's VEC Test Session on Thursday, January 17th was successfully attended by the following candidates

- Robert Zwergel **KB3QEO**, Technician upgraded to General
- Matthew Foley **AB3GW** (formerly N3TSN), General upgraded to Amateur Extra.
- Arthur Costigan, Jr. became **AB3GX**, Amateur Extra.
- Lee Rice became **KB3QHB**, Technician
- Heywood "Woody" Eicker became **KB3QHC**, Technician
- John Cherish became **KB3QHD**, General
- Gary Graham became **KB3QHE**, General

Thanks to our attending VEs —

- Don AE3DL
- Bob AB3ED
- Susan KB3JHQ
- Ed N3ZNI.

— Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL., VE Team Leader

WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 02/03 - Bill W3WH | 05/04 - Frank N3FB |
| 02/10 - Hank KB3FNM | 05/11 - Hank KB3FNM |
| 02/17 - Harold K3HCR | (Mother's Day) |
| 02/24 - Carol KB3GMN or | 05/18 - Paul NØVLR |
| Richie N3SBF | 05/25 - Dave N3DFK |
| 03/02 - Frank N3FB | 06/01 - Kevin N3HKQ |
| 03/09 - Hank KB3FNM | 06/08 - Bill W3WH |
| 03/16 - Paul NØVLR | 06/15 - Hank KB3FNM |
| 03/23 - Kevin N3HKQ | 6/22 - Harold K3HCR |
| 03/30 - Dave N3DFK | 06/29 - Carol KB3GMN or |
| 04/06 - Bill W3WH | Richie N3SBF |
| 04/13 - Kevin N3HKQ | 07/06 - Frank N3FB |
| 04/20 - Harold K3HCR | Alternates |
| 04/27 - Carol KB3GMN or | Dave N3IDH |
| Richie N3SBF | Ron W3WN |

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 11

Minutes, January 10th Meeting

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

Larry K3VX, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:04 hours. There were 28 members and guests in attendance.

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

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark reported the club's account balances. Dues are due.

Secretary (N3FB): A letter will be presented to the library with 2008 meeting dates.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE session will be held next week.

Website (N3ZK): Randy reports that it is working – looking for content. He also renewed site hosting last month.

Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB): 443.65 is well, the digi is not so well.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Schedule is posted.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): 50/50 after the meeting.

Public Service (N3RDV): Please take part in the 2 meter contest. The St Patrick's Day Parade will need radio operators.

Contests (N3HKQ): 2 Meter contest is coming; Kevin has been sending e-mails to promote it to as many addresses as he had. Larry & Bill are going to operate N3SH and Paul KB3KOT, & Randy N3ZK, will take WA3SH. Paul, NØVLR will run the NP2SH/3 call. Dave N3IDH, will be using the WA3COM call from his shack.

Activities & Programs (AB3ED): Bob is going to schedule presentations for the next year. There is a schedule of events posted in the newsletter for the 2008 schedule.

Newsletter (W3WN): It went out. Content is needed. A special edition is going to be made of pet & family pictures. May be called the **WOOFRag!**

President's Report (K3VX): Very short report.

Hamfest (N3HKQ): We have purchased the prizes for the hamfest they were slightly under budget. Mailings however were higher. Table reservations are being taken. Thanks to WACOM for sharing their mailing list.

Old Business: Read a thank you letter from the Amateur Astronomers for our donation after Field Day.

New Business:

- We are on the schedule for the observatory. Paul NØVLR, moved to use only one site and that it be the astronomers site. Harold K3HCR, seconded. It was voted on and passed.
- Bill W3WH, is organizing the Western PA QRP club – no meetings, no dues. See Bill to join.
- Bill also asked if there was interest in buying a large roll of coax and splitting the costs?
- Paul NØVLR, announced that Frank N3XI, is selling his station and read the announcement that was in the last newsletter and e-mail reflector.

Good of the Order: Ron W3WN, announced that tomorrow is the first day of Girl Scout Cookie Season.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Bill W3WH, and seconded by Randy N3ZK. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:49.

WASH Spotlight: W4ZE



Ted W4ZE enjoying his retirement in Port St. Lucie, FL, was visited last November by Randy N3ZK. The two operated in the TARA RTTY contest together. More photos available on Randy's web site at <http://www.n3zk.com>

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2008 Randy George N3ZK

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 Ft. Lauderdale, 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

2008	N3BPB	K3SGT	N2QIV	WASH FL	Silent Keys
AB3ED	N3CZZ	K3WJL	N3FPF	KA3UPY	
AB3EN	N3DFK	KA3RAO	N3IDH	W4ZE	
AC4KU	N3FB	KA3TWI	N3PN	WASH GA	
AE3DL	N3HKQ	KB3DCO	N3RDV	K3OL	K3EED
K3HCR	N3QMV	KB3HFP	N3TXH	KB3IJX	(George)
K3LGM	N3RNX	KB3HVN	N3ZEL	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3VX	N3SBF	KB3IAC	N3ZNI	NØPEU	KB3FQT
KB3FNM	N3ZK	KB3IRQ	N9OKM	WASH NY	N3FZ
KB3GMN	NU3S	KB3IWW	W3BC	KE3XB	N3KEH
KB3GMP	W3RJM	KB3IVV	W3JJC	N3YPB	N3OBD
KB3GMU	W3RWS	KB3IVX	W3LE	WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3KOT	W3VFA	KB3PNE	W3SRL	N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3KQY	W3WH	KB3PSB	W8LEV	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3NSG	W3WN	KB3QHB	WA3RVD	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3NVL	W4ZE	KB3QHC	WA4ONC	Jane Wagner	
KB3NVN	WA3JPP	KE7FD	Jane Wagner	WASH VI	
KB3ORR	WB4GCS	KN3A		NP2JF	
KB3PSB	WO3Z	NØWPV			
KC4WTT					
NØVLR	2007				
N1NCZ	K3DMM				
N3AWF	K3EED				
	(Cindy)				

Through January 30th, 2008

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Motorola Successfully Completes Tender Offer for Controlling Interest in Vertex Standard

On January 16th, 2008, Motorola successfully completed its tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co., Ltd. (Yaesu)

Motorola will have a total ownership stake of approximately 78% of Vertex Standard, while Tokogiken Co., Ltd., a privately held Japanese company, will retain a 20% stake. Through a subsequent restructuring process Motorola will own 80% of Vertex Standard.

The joint venture company will continue to be called "Vertex Standard Co., Ltd." and will become a subsidiary of Motorola, with headquarters in Tokyo.

Do Not Work On Antennas During A Rain or Lightning Storm!

Ted Park K6XN courtesy of the TowerTalk reflector and Larry Comden K3VX

On February 19th, 2005 I was working on an 80 meter antenna when lightning either struck the antenna or struck nearby and I was knocked unconscious and I stopped breathing. Luckily my wife heard an explosion in the back yard and found me lying on the patio unconscious and not breathing...and smoking.

She called 911 and the paramedics arrived luckily in just a few minutes. I was able to start breathing on my own with difficulty just before they arrived.

There were burn mark impressions of the soles of my shoes in the grass where I had been standing when I took the hit and nothing grew back in my footprints for several months. I smelled like burnt flesh and parts of my clothing had been burnt and I had trouble talking and breathing...and the left side of my body didn't function the same as the right side of my body and my feet felt "funny".

The paramedics immediately determined that parts of my feet had been burned away with deep third degree burns to the bones of my feet and that I had five serious third degree burns on other parts of my body, and that my heart had gone into atrial and ventral fibrillation. To make a long story short, after 17 days in intensive care in a burn unit, two major surgeries and five skin grafts I was able to leave the hospital in a wheel chair. Six more months in the wheel chair and multiple daily injections and multiple daily wound dressing changes I was able to get out of the wheel chair and stagger around with a granny walker. Over a year after the hit I am now able to walk normally but I have lost a lot of strength and my feet are still healing. Luckily the scars from the skin grafts don't show with normal business attire. I am slowly getting stronger every week and I am very thankful that I am still alive and that I am finally free of pain.

This is not an experience that I would want anyone else to go through. I am leaving out some painful gory details including how painful it is to recover from multiple deep third degree burns and multiple daily wound dressing changes for each burn area....or the indignities of not being able to make it to the bath room on your own etc. or the inconvenience of not being able to sit and use a computer for more than five minutes before you have to elevate your legs because the pain is too severe.

The medical costs were shocking; over \$300,000. Luckily the company I worked for (Hewlett-Packard) and my medical insurance picked up the costs.

I do not intend this to be whining, as I am thankful to be alive and free of pain and functioning now. But as a heads up: trust me... you do **not** want to experience this.

Bottom line: I recommend that anyone even thinking about working on an antenna or an antenna feed line during a rainstorm seriously consider *not* doing it. Lightning was *not* predicted the morning I took the hit and it is not common that we have lightning in our area.

I stay away from antennas and antenna feed lines now during rainstorms, and I get nervous when I even see a rain cloud if I am near an antenna. My XYL, Laine K6XXN, saved my life and she was not pleased that I was stupidly working on an antenna in a rainstorm.

She watches me closely now during rain storms. :-)



Got lightning protection? Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007, 2008 Randy George N3ZK

More on Lightning Danny Douglas N7DC (ex SVØWPP VS6DD ET2US ET3USA G5CTB YV5/N7DC)

When I was assigned to a radio relay facility in Greece, I was seconded to the embassy communications site for long stretches of time. On night, just at closing time for the embassy circuits, I was standing in front of two teletype machines which were running. One of them just froze up in place, the other started running "open". I did some checking there, and seemed to be no internal problems - just no incoming signals on the land line from the site. Listening to the CW control frequencies, I could hear embassies all over Africa and the middle east, calling and telling the site that they lost communications. That meant not only us with landline, but all TTY RF from the transmitter site was down as well. I tried calling on the phone, but only got busy signals.

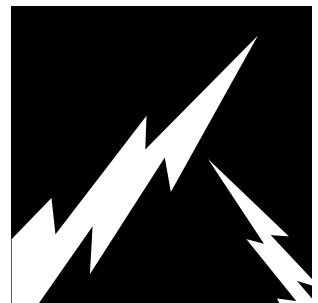
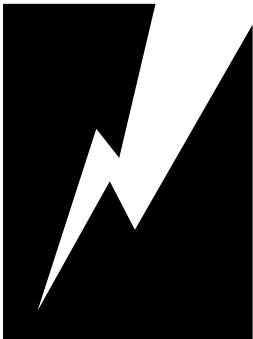
After two hours, I got an inbound call.: lightning had hit the site, and they were completely down. I asked if they wanted me to start responding as off-station control for the CW circuit, and they said yes. I got my CW transmitters up, and then noticed I didn't have a CW key hooked up anywhere. The guys normally there, were not CW qualified, and only manned such sites with landlines, and seldom if ever had any reason for cw- since the phone lines were good, etc. etc. Yeah - rotsa ruck on that one.

I never found a key — there simply wasn't one in the building. I wound up stripping a wire, and put on a plug, and used the bare ends to touch together, to send code (albeit slowly) to let the other stations know to go to their designated secondary sites, and that they would be notified by TTY when to return to the major relay. I then closed down and went home myself.

The next day, I found that lightning had hit a corner of the receiver building, went down the lightning rod there, jumped thru iron support rods in the walls, blew out a hole in the wall, traveled through the metal covers of the signal runs in the floors, up and into and out of every piece of gear in the place. It blew every R390 receiver, every RTTY devices, every phone line, every light fixture, etc. in the place. It then ran up the wall in the women's bathroom, exiting the building, leaving a 2 foot hole thru the wall to the outside.

It took weeks to replace/repair everything, and even a year later we were still finding circuitry that failed, probably due to the lightning. This was a place with a lightning rod installed almost every 6 feet apart around the whole building, and its compound. The best efforts of experts in the field had designed the systems, qualified installers had installed it. Lightning still managed to do its thing.

One other thing that has made me jumpy, is I was sitting in the living room here, when a stroke hit a tree across the highway from us. At the same time, a light fixture, directly above my head, blew 3 bulbs apart, and the TV we were watching, up and quit. That was the only damages in the house, on that stroke. And that's when I started unplugging, and protecting everything I could. And, that has worked thru several major lightning storms here, until it all went haywire when the plugs were left in the wall.



A 30 Meter Loop Antenna

Carl Moreschi N4PY courtesy of the Ten Tec reflector

I thought I would share how I matched a 30 meter loop I made to use with my Omni VII and Orion.

I made a full wave delta loop for 10.1 MHz. I used 14 gauge wire and erected the delta as an equilateral triangle with a flat side on top and the point of the triangle directly at the bottom. The triangle is 33 feet on a side for 10.1 MHz. I have the top side (33 feet) at 50 feet above the ground and stretched between 2 trees. At the bottom point, which is 22 feet above ground, I connected some very low loss 75 ohm cable I had.

I made a tight coil of 18 feet of this cable (6 inch diameter) at the feed point to act as a current balun to stop radiation from the feedline. Now full wave loops are 100 ohm antennas at this feedpoint. The normal way to match them is to run a quarter wave of 75 coax and then switch to 50 ohm cable. The quarter wave of coax will convert a 100 ohm impedance to 50 ohms. But I had a huge amount of this low loss 75 ohm cable so I decided I could run the entire length I needed (150 feet) in all 75 ohm cable. As long as the total length of cable is an odd multiple of quarter waves, it will still match 50 ohms. So I used 150 feet to get to my antenna switch box and then I added an additional half wavelength of cable (40 feet). I then used an MFJ antenna analyzer and began shortening the cable length 1 foot at a time until I found the 50 ohm point. I ended up cutting back 18 feet of cable to get to this point.

So now I have my 30 meter loop with a 1.0 SWR and no splice points at all along the entire cable. I am finding this loop is performing very well. I have been comparing it with my 130 foot inverted L. My inverted L favors north-south and my new loop favors east-west, so the 2 antennas give me excellent all around coverage.

Upgrading Your Code Speed

Samuel F.B. Morse III W6FZZ (SK)

courtesy of Ron McConnell W2IOL (*transcribed from a letter to several aspiring operators, written on September 3rd, 1987*)

I have been thinking about your desire to up-grade your code speed. I am sure you have at your finger-tips the best possible self-teaching tools that anyone could possibly wish for. I will outline a procedure below that should be far more effective than having someone sending code to you at various speeds and most likely a quality of sending less than perfect.

The outline:

Find an interesting long-winded newspaper article. Sit down to your computer keyboard and convert this article into Morse Code in preparation to re-transmitting this Morse Code into a cassette tape recorder at a speed just a few words per minute faster than your present ability to easily read. Be sure to make a hard copy of the article from a copy on your monitor screen. I suppose the code copy you have made with the computer keyboard can be retained either in programmed memory or on cassette to be used repeatedly later to re-record on either the same cassette or separate cassettes progressively as your speed ability increases.

Use the loud speaker or ear phones as you choose and watch the hard copy with your eyes. Use the paper hard copy made from your monitor screen or the original newspaper copy, which ever is easiest for your eyes to follow while your ears track the code playback from the cassette via speaker or headphones.

You have now turned the job over to two of your life-long-trained five senses working together.

From now on increasing your code reading speed should be effortless. You have turned the heavy labor over to your two trained buddies, (Hearing and sight.)

Sit back in your easy chair and watch the hard copy letter for letter as your subconscious or reflex nature gets used to ASSOCIATING the code sounds heard letter for letter with what has been stared in the reflex or subconscious nature via vision since childhood.

Whatever is pumped into the subconscious storage by this method will stay there the rest of your life. By comparison, this procedure is practically effortless as compared with other learning methods. Subconsciously what is heard is being identified with what the brain has learned to accept via vision since childhood.

I presume the computerized code can be re-transmitted into cassettes at whatever increased speeds your rate of progress indicates to be desirable. I recommend separate cassettes for each step of increased speeds. The slower speed cassettes can be retained possibly to help others.

Drop me a postcard. Let me know of your success applying this procedure. I sincerely hope it helps you to upgrade quickly.

P.S. Test yourself occasionally by converting various other very short articles into Morse Code and cassette record same and see how you read these that you have not become familiar with without looking at a hard copy. Testing yourself with two or three different ones such as this from time to time will reveal exactly the progress you are making. I repeat make these tests without watching hard copy. Then go back to the above learning procedure with increasing recorded speeds and new articles, on that on you are not yet familiar with.

A preposition is a word that you should not end a sentence with!! Or a word with which you should not end a sentence. Or with which you are not yet familiar.



The world's first telegram was sent on 24 May 1844 by inventor Samuel F..B. Morse. The message "What Hath God Wrought" was transmitted from Washington, DC to Baltimore, MD. In a crude way, the telegraph was a precursor to the Internet in that it allowed rapid communication, for the first time, across great distances. Morse's grandson kept the torch light.

W6FZZ is the grandson of Samuel Finley Breeze Morse, one Samuel Finley Breeze Morse III, Born 26 July 1902, then Cherry Valley CA, now of Garden Grove, CA. Sam was/is a champion speed record holder with both American & International code at 75 Plus WPM. Sam was a long time CW operator on the bands and has not been heard from in a long time. — courtesy of <http://www.geocities.com/w8jyz/W6FZZ.pdf>



MARCFEST 2008

sponsored by Monessen Amateur Radio Club

March 30th, 2008, 8:00 Am to 1:00 PM at the Blaine Hill VFD, 409 Oxford Avenue, Elizabeth, PA, approx. 2 miles from the Elizabeth Bridge — Talk-In on 147.225 and/or 443.350 Repeaters

More information on prizes and tables, please contact:
John Graham N3OVO n3ovo1@gmail.com (412) 287-8291
Or Chris Grilli grillil@verizon.com

Download directions & the latest flyer from the MARC Web Site at <http://www.w3csl.org>

2008 WASH Meeting Night Program Topics

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

February 14 th	DXpeditions	VP8GEO DXpedition Video
February 16 th	Breezeshooters 10 Meter Groundwave Contest CW	7:00 PM EST until 12 Midnight http://www.breezeshooters.net
February 24 th	WASHFest 2008	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman
March 13 th	WASH Pizza Night & WPXI Tour	Frank Bobro N3FB
March 15 th	Breezeshooters 10 Meter Groundwave Contest SSB	7:00 PM EST until 12 Midnight http://www.breezeshooters.net
March 30 th	MARCFest 2008	http://www.w3csl.org
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	51st 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>

DXCC Pushes to Get Ahead

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Due to several factors, including greater activity from new and reactivated DXCC entities, the ARRL DXCC Desk has been experiencing QSL card processing delays. According to ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, there are approximately 2300 applications currently on the list of received applications, resulting in a processing backlog of more than 12 weeks. "People usually have to wait 4-6 weeks from the time they send in their application to the time they receive their cards back," Moore said.

Even with the low sunspot numbers of the now defunct Solar Cycle 23, there has been an increase in DXCC activity, Dave Patton, NN1N, Manager of the ARRL Membership and Volunteer Services Department, said; DXCC is a division of this department. "We've added or reactivated new entities like Scarborough Reef, Swains Island and Montenegro," he said. "ARRL membership is up, and more people out there have HF privileges." DXCC rules state that US hams must be ARRL members to participate in DXCC; there is no membership requirement for foreign participants. Moore estimates that one-third of the DXCC applications come from outside the US. Sharon Taratula, Membership and Volunteer Programs Supervisor, said that approximately 500 DXCC applications are processed each month.

ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, said that a new full-time person has just been added to the DXCC staff. "We are actively looking for an additional full-time employee for DXCC. By adding more staff, we can definitely cut down on the time it takes to process applications."

"While we are not happy with the delayed turnaround time for DXCC applications, I can assure everyone that we are maintaining our high level of concern for accuracy in processing and care for our customers QSLs and awards," Patton said. "I'm pleased that interest in operating awards is so high, and indeed there is evidence that new and returning ops are participating in ever increasing numbers. In the near future, as we continue to refine and improve Logbook of the World and our processes, turnaround time will improve, the quality of our awards will improve and we can hopefully offer new and expanded awards programs like the brand new Fred Fish Memorial Award for confirming QSOs with the 488 grid squares in the continental US on 6 meters."

Patton thanked the many DXCC Field Checkers and Awards Card Checkers around the world. "They give so freely of their time and resources to make participation in operating awards so much more convenient for everyone. And I also want to thank all of the volunteers working in QSL Bureaus throughout the world, as well. The QSL Bureau system is still very important to collectors and awards chasers, and activity in the bureau is maintaining and even increasing despite the lack of sunspots."

Kramer said, "We take great care with people's DXCC applications. The DXCC crew is very diligent in handling and checking each applicant's cards. We don't rush the process because we don't want to make mistakes — we know how important this program is to DXCC participants."

Field Day 2008 Rules & Forms Now Available.

ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rules changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category.

The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks



Second, **VP6DX** went QRV from Ducie Island on February 11th. They plan to be QRV through February 27th, weather permitting, including operating in the ARRL DX CW contest. They will have an on-line log, and they are looking for recordings of their operation to be submitted to their web site (MP3 format, not greater than 5 MB per email). They request that you QSL via their on-line request system. More information is available at their web site at <http://ducie2008.d11mgb.com/index.php> — VP6DX web site



The ARRL DX CW contest should also see operation from **4U1UN** by N2GA and N2UN. QSL via HB9BOU — OPDX

A45XR reports that as of February 3rd, he now has permission to operate on 30 meters. He has been very active on the band since then. QSL direct, but IRC's are preferred to green stamps for security reasons — A45XR

CN2BC will be QRV during the CQ WPX SSB contest March 29th—30th. QSL via DL7BC — DL7BC

The first batch of **FJ/OH2AM** cards were released on February 11th. Delay was due to a printer's error on the first print batch. All cards should be in the mail by March 15th. — OH2BN

News reports indicate that **First Class Postage will rise** from \$.41 to **\$.42** on **May 12th**. **First Class International Mail to Canada and Mexico** will rise from \$.69 to **\$.72**, and **First Class International Mail to other countries** will rise from \$.90 to **\$.94**. No word on what if any affect this will have on the cost of new IRC's. If you are going to send an SASE to a US based QSL manager between now and then, try and use a "Forever" First Class stamp so that they won't have to pay additional postage if mailed after May 12th!

QSL Routes

3CØM via EA5BYP — UA3FDX	ET3JA via OK3AA — W2IRT
3C7Y via EA5BYP — W2IRT	FS5KA via W3HNC — WO2N
4A1UN via XE1UN — N1NK	JD1BMH via JG7PSJ — JA1HGY
4W6GH via CT1EGH — W4DN	OJØB via OH2BH — TA3J
5N8NDP via IK5JAN — M5AAV	P29VCX via SM6CVX — UA3FDX
5F8RJ via DJ7RJ — KZ2I	SJ9WL via ON4CK — W3AWU
6V7H via KQ1F — K3WI	T88PR via JJ8DEN — JA1HGY
6W1SJ via T93Y — JA1HGY	TN9Z via DJ9ZB — W2IRT
7Q7BP via G3MRC — W2IRT	TR8CA via F6CBC — WF5E
7Q7VB via UA4WHX — W3AWU	TX5NK via DJ8NK — K2DBK
8P2K via KU9C — JA1HGY	TZ6DX via K4DX — EU1SA
9XØVB via UA4WHX — W9RPM	UPØL via DL8KAC — K2DBK
AHØV via JI5RPT — JA1HGY	V6ØYAQ via JI6DUE — JA1HGY
C31SD via CT1AMK — WO2N	V63M via W1JJ — N2ZN
C52C via OM2FY — KZ2I	V63MP via JAØVSH — JA1HGY
C91R via CT1BXT — W2IRT	V8FWP via PA3FM — G4GED
E51NOU via N7OU — K3WI	VK9WWI via HA7RY — LA5HE
E51QMA via OM2SA — JA1HGY	YI9KT via SP8HKT — N2ZN
EL2AR via EL2BA — NN3W	YN2N via TI2OHL — W2IRT
EP2HZ via W3HCW — WO2N	ZK3RE via HA8IB — K2DBK

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.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



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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NTIA BPL Figures Dis-Avowed

Dave Sumner K1ZZ, CEO, ARRL
 courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) report *Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007* that was released on January 31st, 2008 includes the following:

Reliable BPL [broadband over power lines] subscribership figures are difficult to find. The FCC's most recent data identify fewer than 5,000 BPL customers as of yearend 2006. That figure appears low, however. TIA [The Telecommunications Industry Association] estimates 200,000 current BPL subscribers...

Five years of experience in dealing with BPL systems as a radio interference source have given the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, considerable insight into the BPL industry. Based on that experience, the ARRL has concluded that the FCC's figure of fewer than 5000 BPL customers is entirely credible. Therefore, the ARRL set out to determine the source of the "estimate" of 200,000 current BPL subscribers.

We contacted TIA and were advised that the figure came from a market study prepared by Wilkofsky Gruen Associates Inc and based on research conducted by In-Stat, a unit of Reed Business Information.

So we contacted In-Stat and asked how the figure was derived. They responded: "The 200,000 number for BPL subs did not come from In-Stat. In our US broadband forecast, we estimate about 231,000 broadband subscribers in the "other" category besides DSL, cable, satellite. Other includes BPL, but is not solely BPL."

We then contacted Wilkofsky Gruen Associates. They responded: "Our source for the BPL figures was In-Stat." When In-Stat's denial was shared with them, they responded, "It was our understanding that BPL was the principal component as it was the first item listed by In-Stat."

TIA was invited to comment but declined to do so.

In other words, here is what we have learned: In-Stat does not claim to know how many BPL subscribers there are, but provides an estimate of 231,000 broadband subscribers who receive service via delivery systems other than DSL, cable, and satellite. Wilkofsky Gruen Associates, on the basis of nothing more than that BPL is listed first, assumes that the bulk of these 231,000 are BPL subscribers and arbitrarily attributes 200,000 of them to BPL. In turn, NTIA — not satisfied with an FCC figure that is derived from *required reports* from service providers — cites this arbitrarily chosen figure -- a figure that is entirely unsupported by any data whatsoever -- as evidence that the FCC's figure -- which is fully supported by data -- "appears low."

On February 1st we called upon the NTIA to issue a corrected report. We renew that call now.

(See also **NTIA Report on Broadband in America 2007 Inflates BPL Figures** at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/01/101/?nc=1> — Editor)

The **European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations** (CEPT) has revised its table of equivalence between FCC Amateur Service licenses and the CEPT license.

Effective February 4, 2008, *Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended)* now grants full CEPT privileges only to those US citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra or Advanced class license. This means that those US licensees who hold an FCC-issued General or Technician license are no longer eligible for full operating privileges in countries where CEPT-reciprocal operation had previously been permitted. US Novice class licensees have had no reciprocal operating privileges under the CEPT provisions.



These changes are the result of a re-evaluation of US and CEPT license classes equivalence by the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group at its meeting January 29-February 1, 2008 in Basel, Switzerland. The Working Group deals with numerous areas of concern including Amateur Radio, and is responsible for applications from countries to participate in *T/R 61-01*, as well as other Amateur Radio related issues. "Changes in the US license structures and examinations often have ancillary implications beyond the immediate impact upon the US licensees," said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager. "While this CEPT change affects several classes of US licensees when they visit Europe and other CEPT signatory countries, it has no effect on their operating privileges at home."

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

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- 2nd Prize: Kenwood TH-D7A
- 3rd Prize: SGC SG-239 HF Smarttuner

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

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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: _____

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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)

1st Qtr **2nd Qtr** **3rd Qtr** **4th Qtr**
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- (F1) Full Membership: \$20.00 \$15.00 \$10.00 \$5.00
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(FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

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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



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

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Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- **WASHFest 2008:** Crunch Time!
- Interested in a nice 30 Meter loop?
- Interested in improving your code speed? An Expert's suggestions!
- Motorola Acquires Vertex Standard!
- Did the NTIA inflate BPL numbers for political reasons?

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



**Keep
This
Man
Happy!**

Is there anything that brings a smile to the face of a club treasurer at this time of year like receiving your annual club dues? (Be careful how you answer that, this is a family newsletter!

Don't forget that your 2008 Club Dues are Due!

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2008 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

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