



# WASHRAG™

www.n3sh.org www.washrag.info

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2008

N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

## PA Tower Legislation

The time has come to be considerably more serious than we have been over the antenna tower legislation that is pending in the Pennsylvania Legislature. At the present time both House Bill 1777 (HB1777) and Senate Bill (SB884) are presently lying idle in their respective committees. Some of the information that we have been given indicates that progress on this legislation is stalled because of political party considerations. We CANNOT CONFIRM NOR DENY this information. The Fact remains that the legislation is apparently at an impasse. We need to get this legislation moving before it dies in Committee.

What I propose is that everyone contact the members of the involved committees (see information below) and urge them to approve this proposed legislation and get it out onto the floor of the General Assembly for a vote. Senators and Representatives who are also sponsors of the bills are identified below. Members of the committee who are also sponsors should be sent a communication thanking them for their support in sponsoring the legislation and asking their continued support. Once the legislation has been approved by the Senate and House Committees (Local Government Committee) we will then make contact with or Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly and urge their support of the legislation.

To start with the web site where all of the following information is available (plus considerably more) is <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>

From that starting point you can find all the information you will need. However, what follows is a synopsis of the information that I compiled. Please note that at the web site listed above the manner in which the information is presented differs between the Senate and the House.

### PA Senate Bill 884 - SB884 Sponsors

- Stewart J. Greenleaf, (R.) 7th District
- Robert D. Robbins, (R.) 50th , Local Government Committee member
- Jay Costa, (D.) 43rd
- Wayne D. Fontana, (D.) Local Government Committee member
- Patrick M. Browne, (R.) 16th
- J. Barry Stout, (D.) 46th
- Bob Regola, (R.), 39th , Local Government Committee Chairman
- Andrew W. Dinniman, (D.), 19th , Local Government Committee member

### PA Senate Local Government Committee

- Regola, Bob (R.), 39th — Chairman and SB884 Co-Sponsor  
[bregola@pasen.gov](mailto:bregola@pasen.gov)
- Eichelberger, John H. (R.), 30th -- Vice Chairman — [jeichelberger@pasen.gov](mailto:jeichelberger@pasen.gov)

Continued on  
Page 5

### President's Letter

#### Ownership

Does the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS own the tower-trailer?

The project began two years ago using money from corporate donors, club member donors and club treasury money.



The project is not as yet complete - but somewhat functional - the major pieces to be completed are the rotor system and mounting, the outrigger support structures (railings), a better way to raise and lower the tower by providing a step to reach the crank and a complete inventory of parts, etc.

The estimate to complete the project is \$500 to \$1000 (depending on the amount of donated material). While I don't have a detailed breakdown of money spent so far

(President's Letter Continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue:

WASH Club News	3
Live & Learn	6
WPXI Tour	7
Complaint Department	8
WASH Club Agenda	9
DX News Briefs	10
WASH Classified Ads	11
Hamfest Announcements	12

### Next Meeting: April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Featured tonight will be a presentation on mobile and portable operating. Field Day 2008 and other upcoming activities will also be discussed.

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

Continued from Page 1

(over \$4000) I do know that the club treasury has contributed a (measly) \$300 or less than 8%. So again "Does the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** own the tower-trailer?"

Yes, in 2007 bad weather reduced the **WASHfest** income to the point where we couldn't justify treasury money for the tower-trailer. After this year's successful **WASHfest** I think we can contribute and complete this by Field Day. I want a motion at the April Meeting to allocate what it takes to "git 'er done". The we can say Yes, the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** owns the tower-trailer!

The club does own other equipment (a transceiver, antennas, tuners, logging laptop...) which can be borrowed. Make your request known to our quartermaster, Harold K3HCR.

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



## WASH Breakfast Gang for March

Starting Left, Clockwise: K3SGT, W3WN, AE3DL, W3WH, K3VX, N3SBF, W3VFA, K3HCR, Peg. Not shown: Photographer N3HKQ, latecomer N3BPB

Photo courtesy of and Copyright ©2008 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

## 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 2009 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)**

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

This issue is © Copyright 2008 by the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles in this issue, provided the original author and "**The WASHRag™**" are given credit. Comments, articles, and requests for copies of or information about "**The WASHRag™**" should be mailed to the editor:

Ron Notarius W3WN  
3395 Rosewood Drive  
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

e-mail: [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org) or [w3wn at arri dot net](mailto:w3wn@arri.net)

"**The WASHRag**", "**The Mariner**", **SHARCfest**, **South Hills Hamfest**, **WASHfest**, **WASHfest 2006**, **N3SH Net**, **WA3SH Net** and **WASHNet** are **™** trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. **WASH** was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to Glen Roberts KE7FD of The Internet Guild for his assistance in providing space on-line for our website for back issues of "**The WASHRag™**" which can be found at [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info)

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test April 17<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:n3zel@fyi.net)

Please bring the following to your test session:

- Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
- Pen / Pencil / Calculator
- Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
- Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
- Check or Cash in the amount of \$14.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
 Future test dates: Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
 (tentative) Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
 Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## WIRELESS ASSOCIATION'S 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1993 – 2008

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 and moist Saturday morning brought forth the **WASH Breakfast Gang** on March 29<sup>th</sup> to **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's venturing souls included AE3DL, W3WH, W3WN, K3VX, N3SBF, W3VFA, K3HCR, K3SGT, N3HKQ & Peg, and N3BPB. Morning discussions around pancakes and scrambled eggs included antenna work, heat pumps, Eric's antennas, digital interfaces, PSK calling CQ, HR Deluxe, Taxes and Texas, "Thank God for Route 43!", Dell laptops, dual monitors, apple laptops, Variacs, hamfesting at South Park, GAP vs Butternut verticals, Pgh 250 special event stations, Dayton detours, Baptist Road detours, flooding, a new Butler area hamfest in September?, flooding, Flex radios and software updates, metric fuses, garage doors, and Radio Shack "barrel" connectors.

Spring weather is on us, so what better way to start a Saturday morning than to join the gang for breakfast? (Don't answer that) The next **WASH Breakfast** will be on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road (Route 88) n Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms. See you there!

Even though it's still early April, the summer will be here before you know it. Dayton Hamvention is just around the corner, followed by the Breezeshooter's Hamfest on June 1<sup>st</sup> this year. And yes, there will be the now traditional **WASH Club Picnic** at the Breezeshooter's this year as usual! More details in the May newsletter.

**Field Day 2008** is only a few weekends after that. Randy N3ZK, our FD Chair this year, will have more information at the meeting. It's not too early to start thinking about when you can come out to lend a hand, and what bands and modes you plan on having the most fun operating on!

Speaking of the **Dayton Hamvention**, a few club members have positively responded to Ye Editor's email on the club reflector to the idea of making a one-day trip. Splitting the gas cost several ways makes it affordable, even if it's a long day. Interested? Speak to Ye Editor at the next meeting and let's see what we can work out. (Too bad the bus runs that some local clubs used to run don't exist anymore...)

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

Once again, our thanks to WPXI Channel 11 and Frank Bobro N3FB for kindly hosting the club meeting in March and for the tour of their new facilities off of the Parkway North. All who attended had a great time.

Bill Kristoff N3BPB has taken the lead in organizing a **Special Event Station for Pittsburgh's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** later this year. Bill is planning to make an announcement in the near future about what he's got in mind. In the meantime, Larry K3VX has asked Bill W3WH to be the club's liason for the effort, with Ye Editor helping as best he can. More information as it becomes available.

**2008 Membership:** As you can see from Page 4, only memberships current as of 2008 are now listed. If your call is missing, either you've overlooked your dues for the year... and we hope that's the case, so please contact Mark N3RDV and get caught up to date... or your renewal has gone astray, so again, please contact Mark. Remember, you can handle it quick and painlessly on-line at the club web-site via PayPal, thanks to Randy N3ZK.

Whatever happened to the **WoofRag**? Our proposed "special edition" for our pets and family members is still under construction, awaiting more pictures. There's no hard and fast deadline, but the sooner some more material comes in, the sooner it can go out. (Or do you REALLY want to see more pictures of Ye Editor's kids and dogs?)

Interested in QRP operation? The new **WPA QRP Club W3IBT** is still a work in progress, but all are welcome. The group is currently looking into several possible projects to do together, including building a QRP kit of one sort or another! Stay tuned for more information!

## Mid-Atlantic QSO Party QRT

As you all probably know by now, the results for the 2007 Mid Atlantic QSO Party have been posted at [maq.org](http://maq.org).

Plaque winners, certificate winners, and non-winners are all listed. Judges' decision is final. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to all participants.

We held out hope until the last possible moment for a continuation of the MAQP, especially in light of the success of other area-wide QSO contests, but due to flat participation and more importantly, a lack of support and help doing all the work the contest entails despite dozens of pleas for assistance, we regret to announce that there will be no 2008 or future Mid-Atlantic QSO Parties.

Thanks to all participants and everyone who did help along the way. It was a fun contest, although troubled by pretty bad conditions most years. We'll be sorry to see it go.

Hope to catch you all on the other big contests! 73 from the Mid-Atlantic QSO Party Committee!

**Congratulations**  
 to new  
 father Ben  
 Williams  
 KB3ERO.  
 His son  
 Seth  
 Michael  
 Williams  
 became  
 QRV on  
 April 3rd, 7  
 lbs 3 oz.  
 We hope to  
 have  
 pictures  
 next  
 month!

## WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 04/06 - Bill W3WH                       | 06/08 - Bill W3WH                       |
| 04/13 - Kevin N3HKQ                     | 06/15 - Hank KB3FNM                     |
| 04/20 - Harold K3HCR                    | 6/22 - Harold K3HCR                     |
| 04/27 - Carol KB3GMN or<br>Richie N3SBF | 06/29 - Carol KB3GMN or<br>Richie N3SBF |
| 05/04 - Frank N3FB                      | 07/06 - Frank N3FB                      |
| 05/11 - Hank KB3FNM                     | Alternates                              |
| 05/18 - Paul NØVLR                      | Dave N3IDH                              |
| 05/25 - Dave N3DFK                      | Ron W3WN                                |
| 06/01 - Kevin N3HKQ                     |   |

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2008 Today! Membership Application on Page 13**

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

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

Note: Meeting relocated to Mt. Lebanon Public Safety Building due to sudden closure of the Peters Township Library to repair water damage)

Larry K3VX, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:10 hours. There were 18 members and guests in attendance.

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

Committee reports:

**Treasurer (N3RDV):** No Report

**Secretary (N3FB):** No Report

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** The next VE session will be held in April.

**Website (N3ZK):** No Report.

**Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB):** Repeaters repeating.

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** Schedule is posted.

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

**Public Service (N3IDH):** There is a new SEC for Western Pennsylvania, as the old one resigned.

**Contests (K3VX):** 2 Meter simplex contest results are out. Breezeshooter's CW contest this weekend, SSB contest in mid-March. ARRL DX CW contest is this weekend, ARRL DX SSB the first weekend in March

**Activities & Programs (AB3ED):** No Report.

**Newsletter (W3WN):** It went out. Content is needed.

**President's Report (K3VX):** Plaque presentation to N3ZEL and N3ZNI for the 2007 Kilowatt award.

**Hamfest (N3HKQ):** 40 tables spoken for; most are paid for. This is par for this time of the year. Review of our volunteers and our usual setup, assuming we have access to the hall on Saturday after breakfast. If we don't, we'll set up at 5 AM on Sunday.

**Old Business:** Review of access to WPXI studio — arrive on or after 6:30 PM. Call security from the call box and tell them you're with the radio group. Address is 4145 Evergreen Road — take the McKnight Road/Evergreen Road exit, right turn at ramp, right turn at stop sign, left into parking lot.

**New Business:** None.

**Good of the Order:**

- WACOM is holding a Tech class starting in April — classes on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, test session on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be another class for EMT's & other emergency personnel, on upcoming Wednesday evenings, information will be on the WACOM website.
- Glen KE7FD is planning a trip to AES on the 24<sup>th</sup> — if you need anything, just ask.
- Larry K3VX has a Mouser catalog available
- Jacqué N3ZEL is looking for tower sections to help out a new young General class license

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Carol KB3GMN and seconded by Bill W3WH. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 19:30.

I have positions available for the WPX CW contest at 6Y1V at the end of May. After a very successful M2 operation with K6AM, W4PA and WE9V, most likely having set a new North American WPX SSB Record with 30 million claimed points and possibly winning the M2 category, I am planning early for another M2 operation for the 2008 WPX CW contest. There are no fees for operating at 6Y1V, other than your cost to get to Jamaica, lodging if you choose to stay at a resort instead of the shack, and your food and beverages.

More information about the station can be found at [www.6y1v.com](http://www.6y1v.com)  
— David ~ 6Y1V [david@6y1v.com](mailto:david@6y1v.com)

## WASH Spotlight: Gianna Luisa



Welcome to Gianna Luisa Lusardi, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 2011 Z, 9 pounds, 10 ounces, held by proud papa Paul NØVLR.

Congratulations to the entire Lusardi family!

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

## Monthly WASH Breakfast

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!



Join us this month at **The Beach House**, on Route 88 in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. Start time is about 8 AM until ????? Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

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

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3NSG	N3PN	WB4GCS	WASH FL	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3NVL	N3QMV	WO3Z	KA3UPY	
AC4KU	KB3NVM	N3RNX	Jane Wagner	W4ZE	
AE3DL	KB3ORR	N3SBF		WASH GA	
K3HCR	KB3PSB	N3XI		K30L	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3QHB	N3ZEL		KB3IJX	(George)
K3SGT	KB3QHC	N3ZK		WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3VX	KC4WTT	N3ZNI		NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3WJL	KE8RN	NU3S		WASH NY	N3FZ
KA3TWI	NØVLR	W3JJC		KE3XB	N3KEH
KB3FNM	N1NCZ	W3RJM		N3YPB	N3OBD
KB3GMN	N3AWF	W3RWS		WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3GMP	N3BPB	W3SRL		N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3GMU	N3CZZ	W3VFA		WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GUZ	N3DFK	W3WH		K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3HFP	N3FB	W3WN		Jane Wagner	
KB3KOT	N3HKQ	W4ZE		WASH VI	
KB3KQY	N3KFD	WA3JPP		NP2JF	

Through April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# PA Tower Legislation SB-884 & HB-1777

John Rodgers N3MSE, ARRL WPA Section Manager

- Ferlo, Jim (D.) 38th — Minority Chairman - [ferlo@pasenate.com](mailto:ferlo@pasenate.com)
- Scarnatti III, Joseph B. (R.), Ex-Officio - [jscasnatti@pasen.gov](mailto:jscasnatti@pasen.gov)

Continued  
from Page 1

Also, LSO -- Under committees Districts are not listed instead they use the county name(s) and "Part" of)

*Majority (Democrats)*

## Majority Members

- Waugh, Michael L., (R.) 28th, [mwaugh@pasen.gov](mailto:mwaugh@pasen.gov)
- Robbius, Robert D. (R.), 50th, SB884 Co-sponsor, [rrobbius@pasen.gov](mailto:rrobbius@pasen.gov)
- Rafferty Jr., John C. (R.) 44th, [jrafferty@pasen.gov](mailto:jrafferty@pasen.gov)
- Brubaker, Michael W., (R.) 36th, [mbrubaker@pasen.gov](mailto:mbrubaker@pasen.gov)

## Minority Members

- Williams, Constance H., (D.) 17th, [chwilliams@pasenate.com](mailto:chwilliams@pasenate.com)
- Fontana, Wayne D., (D.), 42nd, [Fontana@pasenate.com](mailto:Fontana@pasenate.com), SB884 Co-sponsor
- Dinniman, Andrew E., (D.), 19th, [andydinniman@pasenate.com](mailto:andydinniman@pasenate.com), SB884 Co-sponsor

(Please note there are some slight differences in e-mail servers listed above. I suspect a few rejects on errors as listed)

## PA House Bill 1777 -- HB1777 Sponsors

- Katharine M. Watson, (R.), 144th District
- Kerry A. Benninghoff, (R.) 171st
- Tom C. Creighton, (R.) 37th
- Gordon Denlinger, (R.), 99th
- Tim Hennessey, (R.), 26th
- Art Hershey, (R.), 13th
- Thaddeus Kirkland, (D.), 159th
- William C. Kortz II, (R.), 38th
- Bob Mensch, (R.), 147th
- Ron Miller, (R.), 93rd
- Kathy L. Rapp, (R.), 65th
- John D. Siptroth, (D.), 189th
- Rosita C. Youngblood, (D.), 198th
- Mark K. Keller, (R.), 86th
- Kate Harper, (R.), 61st
- Rob W. Kauffman, (R.) 89th

## PA House of Representatives Committee on Local Government

(PLEASE NOTE for the House of Representatives E-mail addresses, you have to go to the persons name which is hyperlinked to their personal information page which is hyperlinked to "Click Here for E-mail" type of setup.

• Freeman, Robert, Chairman — NHA (County abbreviation)

- Lentz, Bryan R. Secretary — DEL
- Curry, Lawrence H., Chairman for Sub Comm. on Twps. — PHI
- Grucela, Richard T. Chairman for Sub Comm on Counties — NHA
- Harhai, R. Ted, Chariman for Sub Comm on Boroughs — WES
- Casorio, James E. — WES
- Hornaman, John — ERI
- Kessler, David R. — BER
- King, Chris — BUX
- Kula, Deberah — WES
- Leach, Daylin — MGY
- Longietti, Mark — MER
- McIlvaine Smith, Barbara — CHE
- Samuelson, Steve — NHA
- Siptroth, John J. — PIK HB 1777 Co-sponsor
- Tangretti, Thomas A. — WES

## Minority (Republicans)

- Saylor, Stan -- Chariman — YOR
- Gingrich, Mauree -- Co-Chair for Boros — LEB
- Hichernell, David S. -- Co Chair for Co's — DAU & LAN
- Keller, Mark K. — Co Chair for Twps PER and HB1777 Co-sponsor
- Cutler, Bryan — LAN
- Harper, Kate — MGY & HB 1777 Co-sponsor
- Harris, C. Adam — MIF & SNY
- Helm, Susan C. — DAU
- Mensch, Bob, — MGY HB1777 Co-sponsor
- Moyer, Jay R., — MGY
- Petri, Scott A. — BUX
- Ross, Chris — CHE
- Steil, David J. — BUX

Please do all that you can to help get these bills passed and **please forward this information to every ham in PA that you can!**

Thank you all for your attention and assistance.

Rob Sherwood has recently posted a new presentation on his website called "Roofing Filters, Transmitted IMD & Receiver Performance" in PowerPoint and PDF formats. Also posted is an MP3 audio file. Play the audio and follow along with the PPT/PDF.

It's a great presentation that runs about an hour. This was presented to the Boulder, Colorado Amateur Radio Club in February.

At the end of the presentation someone asked about AGC and he talks for another 30 minutes about AGC in modern rigs.

The presentation is at <http://www.sherweng.com/>

— 73, Alan N5NA

Major construction on two of the main roads feeding the **2008 Dayton Hamvention** is threatening to cause significant disruptions.

Hamvention Talk-In Chairman Rob Lunsford KB8UEY, says Needmore Road, the main link from Interstate 75, will be reduced to one lane in each direction, and I-75 itself just north of downtown Dayton will be subject to lane closures during the Hamvention weekend.

Lunsford has put together a list of recommended alternate routes, and plans to have it posted on the Hamvention website, <http://www.hamvention.org>, in time for the big weekend in mid-May.

— CQ Magazine News courtesy of Bob Ferrey N3DOK

# Council Delays Action on Ham Antennas

Joe Nelson, Staff Writer, *San Bernardino County Sun*

Grand Terrace, CA, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 — Ham- radio operators itching to erect towering antennas on their properties will need to hold off until guidelines have been set by the city.

Efforts to adopt an ordinance that would require the operators to get a building permit from the city before installing antennas were set aside at Tuesday night's City Council meeting. Gary Koontz, the city's community development director, said the council decided to form a committee to allow city officials to meet with the operators and get input on a course of action. City staff will provide an update in two weeks to the council on the status of the committee and planned meetings, Koontz said.

The proposed ordinance would restrict the height of antennas to no more than 20 feet with no more than one additional whip antenna. Property owners within a 300-foot radius from where an antenna is proposed would have to be notified in advance.

The issue was brought to the forefront about three years ago, when Lark Street resident Hans Ehlert put up a 35-foot antenna on his property. Riled-up neighbors complained to the city. Some residents have since moved, because they thought the antenna was such a blight on the neighborhood.

The city ordered Ehlert to take the antenna down or get a permit. Ehlert applied for a permit for a 75-foot antenna. He said the taller antenna would enhance his ability to communicate with other ham-radio operators throughout the world.

In response, the city placed a moratorium on the approval of any new applications for amateur ham-radio antennas until an ordinance could be drafted and adopted for such purposes. Neither Ehlert nor attorney Leonard Shaffer, a volunteer attorney with the American Radio Relay League, could not be reached for comment.

## Live & Learn

Jeff Kelly KT2K courtesy of the Ten-Tec reflector

In buying and selling ham radio gear over the internet for nearly 10 years, I finally got burnt on a deal on QRZ. The person represented himself as a ham — stealing the call and name, answered technical questions correctly, and had a PayPal® account.

I send this email as a reminder to hams that frauds can happen.

If I ever purchase equipment again I will at the least:

1. Verify that the name and call is correct
2. Contact the person via phone, verify phone number and reverse look up address.
3. Check the IP address of the purchaser to determine if it lines up with the address from the ham call.
4. Paypal sellers will have to have Buyer protection.
5. Limit purchases to people that have a known history (like on this list) or Buyer feedback.
6. Encourage face to face exchanges for local deals.

The worst thing to do is see a great deal and rush to get it, while dropping all the normal verifications you might go through.

Live and learn.

## Searchable Online CQ Archive Complete

Hicksville, NY / Mineral, VA, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 — CQ Communications, Inc. of Hicksville, New York, publisher of **CQ Amateur Radio** magazine, and Buckmaster Publishing of Mineral, Virginia, jointly announce that Buckmaster's searchable online archive of CQ magazine back issues, dating back to the magazine's first issue in January 1945, is now complete.

The searchable archive may be accessed via the internet at <http://hamcall.net/cq> or via a one-click link from the CQ website homepage at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

All issues through early 2006 are now online, according to Buckmaster President Jack Speer, N1BIC. By agreement with CQ, issues are not posted until two years after their publication dates, as paper copies are still available from the CQ bookstore. Newer issues will be posted as the two-year "window" expires.



## If You Ever Wanted To Cool Down A Piece of Equipment, Read This!

They now make a device called a "LapTop Cooler" This is a very flat plate around 1 inch thick, with 2-3 very silent low speed fans... it pulls air through your equipment into the fan, then exits the air out a open slot in the rear of the plate.

I stuck one under my ICOM IC-781.. and BOOM... whereas the top was always warm to the touch. Now it's cool... Amazing!!!

I always graphed the exit temperature of the Sherwood fan, and now that temp is down 15 degrees on idle heat.

I have a couple of 30 amp DC supplies that always run warm; the LT cooler has taken care of that Now the cases are cool.

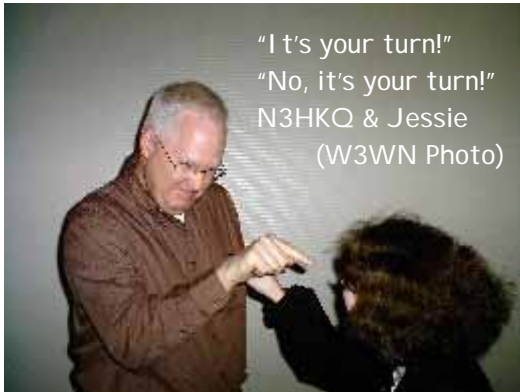
So If you have a piece of equipment that you want cooled, look at at LapTop Cooler — Note: it runs on 5 Volts DC.

Here's a URL if you want to look, but shop if your interested, because there are 50 different styles etc. Pick one that suites your need the best.

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/search.asp?keywords=laptop+cooler&image12.x=13&image12.y=12>

— Bill Winkis KC4PE

# WPXI Tour, March 2008



Studio Weather monitor next to the "green screen"  
Do you know why the two strings are there?  
(KB3ERQ Photo)



Our thanks to WPXI and our host, Frank N3FB, for the use of their meeting room and the tour of their new facilities on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

All photos are courtesy of and Copyright ©2008 Ron Notarius W3WN and Ben Williams KB3ERQ



# *I Wish to Register a Complaint*

Peter Dougherty W2IRT, courtesy of the NJDXA *DX-CHAT* reflector, with apologies to *Monty Python's Flying Circus*

*The scene:* London. QRPer from down the hill enters an office containing a counter with an HF radio and microphone on it. A clerk is standing behind the counter.

QRPer: I wish to register a complaint!

Ofcom agent: Sorry, we're closed for lunch...

QRPer: Never mind that, ol' man, I wish to complain about 10 meters, wot I got permission to use not half a year ago frrrrom this very boutique.

Ofcom agent: Oh, yes, 10 meters. What's, uh....what's wrong with it?

QRPer: I'll tell you what's wrong with it OM, It's DEAD, that's what's wrong with it.

Ofcom agent: Oh no, it's resting.

QRPer: Look matey, I know a dead band when I hear one, and I'm listening to one right now.

Ofcom agent: No no, it's not dead, it's restin'. Remarkable band, ten metres...beautiful daylight coverage.

QRPer: The coverage don't enter into it....it's stone dead.

Ofcom agent: no no no, it's \*resting\*.

QRPer: ALLLLLLright then, if it's resting, I'll wake it up. CQ. CQ TEN. I'M QRV BETWEEN LIGHTNING BOLTS ON CLIPPERTON ISLAND IF YOU'LL WAKE UP, TEN METERS! (Ofcom agent quickly breaks out a bug and oscillator and sends some fast CW)

Ofcom agent: There, that was a signal

QRPer: Not it wasn't, that was you sending on a practice oscillator.

Ofcom agent: I NEVER

QRPer Yes you did!

Ofcom agent: I did naugh...

QRPer: (quickly tuning the transmitter) SEEEE CUE TEN SEEEE CUE TEN!!! QRZ TEN METERS! THIS IS YOUR DX WAKEUP CALL!! (Turns up the AF gain and spins the VFO to only the sound of static).

QRPer: Now that's what I call a dead band.

Ofcom agent: No, no.....no it's STUNNED.

QRPer: STUNNED?

Ofcom agent: Yeah, you stunned it just when you were tuning up. 10 meters stuns easily.

QRPer: Um....now look, mate, don't play the slippery eel with me. That band is definitely deceased, and when I went QRV not six short months ago, my Elmer assured me that its total lack of activity was due to it bein' tired and shagged out following CQ World Wide.

Ofcom agent: Well, it's probably pining for sunspots.

QRPer: PININ' for SUNSPOTS??? What kind of talk is that and why did it fall flat the moment I put my tower up?

Ofcom agent: 10 meters prefers keeping quiet like that. Remarkable band, innit? Beautiful Daylight Coverage.

QRPer: Look tosh, I took the liberty of examining that band when the TI9 was on, and I discovered that the only reason there were any signals at all was because I was listening to other callers on ground wave.

Ofcom agent: Well of \*course\* you were hearing them ground wave. Look, if there'd been any propagation at all they'd have all come in long path, and VOOM.

QRPer: VOOM?

Ofcom agent: Voom.

QRPer: Mate, this band wouldn't voom if the solar flux was four hundred thousand! It's bleedin' DEMISED!

Ofcom agent: No no, it's pining for sunsp....

QRPer: It's not pining, it's passed on. It has ceased to be. It's a wasteland just like 6 with no aurora! It's flatter than me 80 meter dipole. If it hadn't been for ground wave I'd be hearing crickets. It's off the dial, it's run down the coax and joined the bloody Palos Verdes Sundancers. Vis-a-vis DX QSOs, this band's 'ad it's lot. All statements to the effect of this band's being workable are from now on inoperative. TEN METERS IS NOW QRT! (slams mike down on the desk)

Radio: CQ CQ CQ TEN VP8LP calling from the Falkland Islands, anybody, anywhere, CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ (fades out).

QRPer: (astonished)

Ofcom agent: Right! (evil grin on his face; pull back to reveal the Ofcom agent pull out a Wouff Hong and a Rettysnitch from behind the counter and chases the QRPer out of the office and down the street).

"I'm in the early stages of forming a DXpedition to San Serriffe, a small republic located in the Indian Ocean consisting of several semi-colon-shaped islands. Its two main islands are Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse. It's capital is Bodoni, and its leader is General Pica, along his beautiful wife, Arial. " — KC9ECI

"Can't get there anymore, since it was invaded by the Italics" — WB2WIK

## *Ten-Tec on Skype!*

Sales information and support for current Ten-Tec products is now available via 2 way audio/video on Skype.

We have webcams set up at the sales desks in the lobby and also have one inside the visitors radio room, now available.

We can provide operational assistance and/or information for current Ten-Tec products via Skype — username [tentecsales](#) — during regular business hours, 8:00 - 5:30 PM Eastern time, Monday — Friday.

— Scott Robbins W4PA

## Silent Keys



Myron Cope, 79, Mt. Lebanon, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Arthur C. Clarke, Author, Scientist, Visionary, creator of the concept of the geosynchronous orbiting satellite, 90, Sri Lanka, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008



# 2008 WASH Meeting Night Program Topics

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

April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Out Of Shack Operating: Mobile, Portable, Rover	Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VE Exams	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Leader (724) 746-9235
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	PARC Tri-State Radiofest	<a href="http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/">http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/</a>
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	WPA Repeater Council Meeting	<a href="http://www.wprc.us/meetings.htm">http://www.wprc.us/meetings.htm</a>
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.tworiversarc.com">http://www.tworiversarc.com</a>
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Section Manager & Section Leadership Talk and Q&A	John Rodgers N3MSE
May 16 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dayton Hamvention</b>	
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	SWPA Packet Group Meeting	<a href="http://swppg.zelie.com">http://swppg.zelie.com</a>
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Breezeshooter's Hamfest</b> and <b>WASH Picnic</b>	
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Antennas: Dipoles, Beams, Verticals, Tuners	<i>To Be Announced</i>
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Swap & Shop: Junqué, Freebies, Good Stuff	<i>To Be Announced</i>
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	North Hills ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.nharc.org">http://www.nharc.org</a>
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VE Exams	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Leader (724) 746-9235
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Somerset Co ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.k3smt.org">http://www.k3smt.org</a>
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Antennas: VHF & UHF	<i>To Be Announced</i>
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Skyview RS Hamfest	<a href="http://www.skyviewradio.net">http://www.skyviewradio.net</a>
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	<a href="http://www.w3pie.org">http://www.w3pie.org</a>
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Contests: Warm-Up for the Season	<i>To Be Announced</i>
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	Hi-Tech: APRS, ARF, SDR, EchoLink, D-Star	<i>To Be Announced</i>
October 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>51<sup>st</sup> Annual, 2008 Pennsylvania QSO Party</b>	
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VE Exams	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Leader (724) 746-9235
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Emergency Communications	<i>To Be Announced</i>
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Boat Anchors & Antique Radios	<i>To Be Announced</i>

## KH4 Reopens to Visitors!

Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Honolulu, HI, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 — After a six year hiatus, Midway Atoll is being reopened to week-long excursions. Imagine yourself on a tiny island in the midst of the Pacific, surrounded by a million nesting seabirds and the remnants of a battle that changed the course of World War II, and within the largest marine conservation area in the world.

Oceanic Society, a nonprofit marine conservation organization, has been granted a permit by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and State of Hawaii, to conduct educational tours to Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and the Battle of Midway National Memorial. The refuge and national memorial also serve as the "window" to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, the only site within the monument open to public visitation.

"We are very pleased to welcome Oceanic Society back to Midway Atoll," said Barry Christenson, Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge manager. "For the past several years, our visitor program has been limited to short, one-day visits by cruise ship passengers or veterans returning to commemorate the Battle of Midway. These longer visits will allow people to fully experience the wildlife spectacle and historic significance that make Midway so unique."

"Midway is a living laboratory,; it's unique ecosystems are under constant study. Similar to the Galapagos Islands, Midway offers an unparalleled wildlife experience where birds and fish have little fear of people, allowing close observation," said Birgit Winning, Oceanic Society's Executive Director. "In addition to seeing thousands of albatross, visitors can observe the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal, green sea turtles, and spinner dolphins, as well as snorkel in pristine waters. Visitors will learn about the wildlife and history of the islands and have a chance to participate in restoration efforts during their stay. We appreciate the opportunity to return to Midway and working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff to introduce visitors to this unique wildlife haven of such historical significance."

Oceanic Society will coordinate seven week-long trips to Midway Atoll in 2008 to foster public awareness of the importance and sensitivity of remote atoll ecosystems. Numerous provisions of the permit ensure the protection of Midway's wildlife and historic resources while allowing visitors to learn about and experience this unique ecosystem. The guided tours will interpret both the biological and historical importance of Midway and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and visitors will also learn of the cultural significance of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands for Native Hawaiians. For detailed information or a brochure, contact Oceanic Society, (800) 326-7491, or email [office@oceanic-society.org](mailto:office@oceanic-society.org), or visit [www.oceanic-society.org](http://www.oceanic-society.org).

## Field Day 2008 Rules & Forms Now Available.

ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rule 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

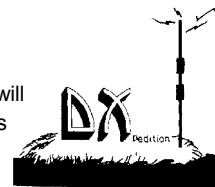
For the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio to find a Field Day site near them. More information at:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>



Has Roadway found the tower yet?

## DX News Briefs



"Rachid 3B8FQ, has received a license for 3B6, and will activate Agalega Island as a Single-Op for 48-72 hours April 14-17th. The callsign will be **3B6FQ**. This will be a working trip. Time will be shared with maintenance duties on the island, but Rachid will be as active as possible when not on duty. Operations will primarily be on SSB, with some CW, all bands 80-10M. After two days transportation by boat, operations are expected to begin around 1830 UTC on 14/4/08. Equipment will be battery powered at 70 W with simple antennas. Suggested frequencies & last minute details will be announced prior to departure. QSL via K5XK, 3B8FQ/3B6FQ QSL manager." — K5XK

A Swedish team of operators will be active as **6V7I** from 6W7RV's QTH through 12 April. The team plans to have two stations on 160-10 meters operating CW and SSB with monoband yagis and verticals. QSL via SM7DXQ — 6V7I

Members of Ushuaia Radio Club will participate in the maintenance of the San Juan de Salvamento Lighthouse (<http://www.hidro.gov.ar/Historia/FSanJuandeSalvamento.asp>). During their free time LU2XT will take advantage to operate CW and possibly SSB as **LU8XW/XP** from 1000 UTC 7 April until 0000 UTC 17 April, on 80, 40, and 20 meters CW & SSB. QSL via WD9EWK. — 11HYW

OH4MDY will be active as **XU7MDY** from Sihanouk Ville (Kompong Som), Cambodia, 3—14 April. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via OH4MDY, direct only. And ON6NP will be active again in Sihanouk Ville (Kompong Som), Cambodia, as **XU7ADV** from 9—28 April. QRV on all HF bands SSB and digimodes — VA3RJ

G3SXW, G3TXF, G4BWP, G5LP and GM3YTS will operate CW only as **YK9G** from Damascus, Syria 9—15 April. Two stations with amplifiers will be QRV full-time. The team will have antennas for all bands (160-10m), but 40-17 metres are likely to provide most openings. They will transmit on frequencies ending in '3' (always listen up 1-2+ KHz) and will concentrate on the US West Coast whenever propagation permits, even though Damascus is somewhat blocked in that direction. QSL via G3TXF (direct, bureau, LotW and e-mail for bureau reply). The web page for the expedition is at [www.yk9g.com/](http://www.yk9g.com/) — G3TXF

DJ1MJF is QRV as **HSØZGQ** through 24 April, 40 through 10 meters including the WARC bands. QRV to home call — OPDX

**IRCs** are not actually a Postal Service product. They're issued by the Universal Postal Union for use by member countries, of which the United States is one. If you run into a postal clerk who doesn't know what they are, tell that person to check the International Mail Manual, or IMM, under section 372 for instructions on how to handle them —N7RQ (USPS Retired)

## QSL Routes

3D2BV via JA1PBV — JA1HGY	EZ8CQ via I2JSB — K8QM
3W3W via OK1DOT — LA5HE	HC1MD via K8LJG — W2IRT
3XD2Z via RW3AZ — G4GED	HG8DX via HA8FT — KZ2I
3XM6JR via UA6JR — K1NU	J5C via F5TVG — K9RT
4A3A via NN1N — JA1HGY	LU1ZA via LU4DXU — W2IRT
4K1D via UA1PBD — RW3RN	OD5XX via W9RG — K2DBK
4LØA via UU4JMG — K1NU	OF8X via OH2BH — JA1HGY
4O3A via AI4U — WO2N	OJØB via OH2BH — JA1HGY
5JØE via W5PF — KI4RU, KT4U	S71ZDX via LA7JO — JA1HGY
8P9AG via DL9USA — JA1HGY	S79UU via UA3DX — WA9YY
9N7BV via JA1PBV — JA1HGY	SD7W via DL2SWW — JJ1BDX
9XØX via DJ6SI — K5AQ	T22V via JA1PBV — JA1HGY
A45WD via YO9HP — JJ1BDX	T88PR via JJ8DEN — JJ1BDX
A61Q via EA7FTR — EU7SA	TN6X via DJ6SI — W2IRT
AP2TN via DJ9ZB — W2IRT	V31GW via DK9GG — T93Y
C31SD via CT1MKD — KI4RU	VP2MSC via K9CS — G4GED
CEØZIG via NR8J — WO2N	VP6TD via ZL2HGR — JA1HGY
CE1/K7CA via NW7O — EU7SA	VQ9JC via ND9M — N2ZN
E4/OM2DX via OM3JW — W6RLL	XU7ACY via W2EN — EU7SA
E51WWA via AD7AF — W6RLL	YK9SV via SV1JG — W3AWU

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.**

**HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
P.O. Box 201  
Canonsburg, PA 15317-0201  
Toll-Free 1-800-545-8881



Fax: (412) 746-5944  
gallina@usaor.net  
"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:  
Radio Equipment                      Computer Equipment  
Antennas Rotors & Towers          Computer Media & Software  
Cellular Telephones  
Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage

**OGS Distributing** — Embroidered Apparel, Printed Apparel, Dash Plaques, Award Plaques, Vinyl Graphics, Cyclo Polisher, Car Detailing Supplies. Dan KB3HVN, 6571



Zupancic Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15236, Phone (412) 655-8787, Fax (503) 218-1441, or visit the on-line catalog at <http://www.onlygoodstuff.com>

**Precision Reproductions & Supply Company** — Reprographics, Equipment & Supplies for the Architect, Draftsman, Engineer, Contractor & Surveyor. Hank Marzina KB3FNM, 339 Regis Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15236, Phone (412) 655-3700, Fax (412) 655-3702

**Nelson Nemes N3PN**

**Keller Williams Real Estate Professionals**

190 Gallery Drive, McMurray, PA 15317  
724-941-9400 x121  
412 443 7010 Cell  
724 941 4969 Fax  
nelson4u@kw.com



**DeRose Marketing International**  
"Healthy Living Technologies"  
Featuring *Living Air*, *Living Water*, & the new *LaundryPure*. Suffering from Allergies, Asthma, Headaches, Pet Odors, Smoke, or Bad Tasting Tap Water? Call for a FREE in-home demo and 3-day trial of *Living Air* and *Living Water*.

Kevin F. DeRose N3KFD  
1-866-754-1331 Toll Free Overview  
1-724-348-6892 Office  
kfderose@ecoquestintl.com  
[www.ecoquestintl.com/kfderose](http://www.ecoquestintl.com/kfderose)



- Database & IT Consulting
- Business Intelligence
- Short & Long Term Contract Positions
- Permanent Placement

Serving Pittsburgh for 13 Years!

Contact Paul Lusardi NØVLR (724) 809-1463 [Paul.Lusardi@IQ-Inc.com](mailto:Paul.Lusardi@IQ-Inc.com)  
Visit [www.IQ-Inc.com](http://www.IQ-Inc.com) for Career Postings

Bob McCloskey W3RJM  
Insurance Sales Representative

Bankers Life & Casualty Company  
We Specialize In Seniors

7 Parkway Center Suite 710  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220  
(412) 733-0011 Extension 112  
<http://www.bankers.com>



## FCC Approves New Broadband Mapping Plan

Grant Gross, IDG News Service

Responding to long-time criticisms about its broadband measurements, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, voted to approve a broadband mapping plan that would break down broadband availability by speed across the country and provide a more granular look at where broadband is available.

The plan that could help the agency pinpoint problems with broadband availability and give it a better idea where speeds are lacking.

The FCC says that more than 99 percent of the U.S. postal Zip Codes have at least one broadband provider. But critics have said the FCC's data is flawed because it counts a Zip Code as covered by broadband if one address in the Zip Code has service available, and the agency has counted anything above 200K bps (bits per second) as broadband.

The new plan would measure broadband availability by Census tract, a geographic area that's typically significantly smaller than a Zip Code. And the agency will break out five speed tiers in its upcoming broadband reports, the lowest tier being 200K bps to 768K bps and the fastest tier more than 6M bps.

### An Opposing Point of View

**Public Knowledge**, an advocacy group focused on digital rights, gave the FCC a "mixed review" on its broadband actions Wednesday. In addition to the new broadband mapping plan, the FCC issued a report saying broadband deployment was proceeding in a "reasonable and timely" manner.

"The commission today presented a mixed message to the public," said Gigi Sohn, **Public Knowledge's** president and co-founder. "It is a mystery why the commission chose to issue this report when, mere moments later, the commission admitted the inadequacy of the information by starting the process to update the data collection on broadband."

While the FCC should be commended for "recognizing the need to change long-outdated definition of broadband it had been using," it should have also separated residential data from commercial data, Sohn said. The FCC also failed to address broadband pricing data measurement for now, she said.

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin noted that high-speed lines in the U.S. increased by 22 percent to 100 million lines in the first half of 2007. While broadband deployment is proceeding, "there is certainly more work to be done," Martin said. "This improved data will enable us to better identify and analyze the deployment of broadband throughout the nation."

But Commissioner Michael Copps noted that broadband customers in many other nations have speeds of 25M bps to 100M bps for less money per month than U.S. customers pay for less than 10M bps.

"The fact is that your country and mine has never had any cognizable national broadband strategy to get the job done," Copps said. "We've been working with one hand tied behind our backs, inhibited by the commission's dependence on antiquated methodologies and less than rigorous analysis. I'm happy we're starting to change our benchmarks, but, my goodness, how late it is."

About 54 percent of U.S. broadband customers had cable modem service as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, according to the FCC statistics released Wednesday. About 34 percent had DSL (Digital subscriber lines), and about 2 percent had fiber lines. Other technologies accounted for the remainder

**Look for several Amateur Radio special event stations to mark the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic.**

**They include WØS, from the Titanic Museum in Branson, Missouri. The WØS operation will commence at 1300 UTC on Saturday, April 12, and conclude at 2400 UTC on Sunday, April 13.**

**And W1MGY will be on the air from the Titanic Historical Society Museum in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts. Operation will concentrate on 20 and 40 meters April 11-12 from 1400 UTC until 2030 UTC each day, although W1MGY may be on the air at other times, bands and modes throughout the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend.**



# Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society Tri-State RadioFest

Sunday April 20th, 2008, at the Center Stage Banquet Hall, located in Monaca, PA 15061. PA-60 Exit 12 North - near the border of Pennsylvania & Ohio.

Auction at 12 noon with Richard Estes

More Information at <http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/>



## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Two Rivers ARC Hamfest & Computer Show

Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Spectrum in Boston, 6001 Smithfield Street, Boston, Elizabeth Township, PA  
State Route 48 North, Right at the Boston Bridge / State Route 48 South, Left After Crossing the Bridge, then 3/10 of a Mile on the Left

\$5 Per Person Admission Donation Vendor Tables \$8 Each

Hot Breakfast — Hot Lunch — Free Coffee All Day

VE Testing Available — 48 Hour Advanced Registration Required Call (412) 664-1683 for more information on VE Sessions

Talk-In on 146.730 MHz, Mobile Check-In on 146.520 MHz

More information on prizes and tables, please contact: [hamfest@2riversarc.com](mailto:hamfest@2riversarc.com)

Download directions & the latest flyer from the 2 Rivers ARC Web Site at <http://www.tworiversarc.com>



## 54<sup>th</sup> Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & Computer Show

Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Butler Farm Show Grounds, Roe Airport, Butler PA

\$5 Per Person Admission Donation

Tailgate / Flea Market Spaces Available at \$5 per Space

Indoor Tables \$20 per table and may be reserved by contacting Rey Whanger W3BIS (412) 828-9283 [w3bis@verizon.net](mailto:w3bis@verizon.net)

Or mail reservations to 120 Cover Run Road, Cheswick PA 15024

Table reservation cut-off date May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

More information on prizes and tables, please contact:

Bob Benna N3LWP [hamfest2008@breezeshooter.com](mailto:hamfest2008@breezeshooter.com) (412) 366-0488

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at <http://www.breezeshooters.net>



# 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"/> (F1) Full Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>1st Qtr</b> Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>2nd Qtr</b> Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>3rd Qtr</b> Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>4th Qtr</b> Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$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: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

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

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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:

- WPXI Tour! We Got Pictures!
  - Want to go to Jamaica for the WPX?
  - Upcoming Hamfest Information!
- All this & much more... waiting for you right inside... these pages!!!



## Minor Antenna Adjustments?

"Please be careful when trying to readjust your antenna up on the tower! It's a LONG way down!

When you begin thinking you're job is hard, just remember these guys! "

— Vincent Mates KF4LVC, courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

## The WASHRag

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



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B  
[www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)  
[www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)  
[www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info)