



WASHRAG™

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MAY 2008

N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

N3MSE Speaks!

Our guest speaker this month is ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager [John Rodgers N3MSE](#). John, and possibly others from the Section staff, will be addressing the club to cover concerns for Amateur Radio in WPA today and in the future, and to answer any questions he can about the direction and future of the ARRL and Amateur Radio.

John was appointed the SM in October 2007 to take the place of Larry O'Toole K3LBP, who had to step down due to health reasons. John had previously served as the WPA SM from January 2000 to September 2003, and before that was the Assistant SM to then-SM Bill Edgar N3LLR starting in 1995.

John's current term ends at the end of this year, and the ARRL will be holding elections for that position later this year.

Welcome back John!



WPA SM John Rodgers N3MSE along with Division Director Bill N3LLR (left) at the 2007 WACOM Hamfest

Photo courtesy of & Copyright ©2007 Paul Lusardi NØVLR

Next Meeting: May 8th, 2008

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, May 8th, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Our guest speaker tonight will be John Rodgers N3MSE, ARRL Western PA Section Manager. The Breezeshooter's Hamfest and Field Day 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

Opportunities Coming Soon

May:

Come to the May 8th meeting to hear from, and question, John Rodgers N3MSE, our ARRL WPA Section Manager about developments at ARRL, the ARRL position on spectrum use and what the ARRL does while representing Amateur Radio in the public and governmental areas. For example, the pending state tower legislation.



Help with completion of the Tower-Trailer!

(President's Letter Continued on page 2)

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President's Letter

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Now that money has been allocated we can complete the job. Just in time for Field Day in.....

June:

Antenna Opportunities: June's program is about antennas. Jim, WB4GCS, (among other club members) will be doing a lot of antenna work. Get involved.

Randy, N3ZK, is FD Chairman this year. I'll help him organize the CW operators. Your opportunity is to volunteer for the other tasks: operating, antennas, shelter, food, etc. We'll all be in one place at the Observatory in Mingo Creek Park.

July:

Vintage Grand Prix track-side operators needed. More to come...

August:

On August 2nd and 3rd the area radio clubs will each get on the air as part of the Pittsburgh 250 celebration. Skyview and Steel City will use their club houses. We haven't decided on a location yet. Suggestions for a WASH location welcome. The obvious opportunity is to operate in this once-in-a-lifetime event..

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

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on April 25th released its decision on the ARRL's Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems. The Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission. Writing for the three-judge panel of Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized: "The Commission failed to satisfy the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act ('APA') by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule and failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions."

The Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the APA by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. The Court also agreed with the ARRL that the Commission erred in not providing a reasoned justification for its choice of an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems and in offering "no reasoned explanation for its dismissal of empirical data that was submitted at its invitation." The Court was not persuaded by the ARRL's arguments on two other points, on which it found that the Commission had acted within its discretion.

The conclusion that the FCC violated the APA hinges on case law. "It would appear to be a fairly obvious proposition that studies upon which an agency relies in promulgating a rule must be made available during the rulemaking in order to afford interested persons meaningful notice and an opportunity for comment," the Court said, adding that "there is no APA precedent allowing an agency to cherry-pick a study on which it has chosen to rely in part."

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)**

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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 July 17th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, July 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, October 16th, 2008
 Thursday, January 15th, 2009
 (tentative) Thursday, April 16th, 2009
 Thursday, July 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 cool Saturday morning brought forth most of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** on April 26th to **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's venturing souls included K3HCR, AE3DL, WA4DNC, W9UK, N3FB, WB4GCS, W3VFA, N3DFK and W3WN — with W3WH and K3VX present *in absentia* enroute to the Pittsburgh 250 Special Operating Event meeting. Subjects of the morning included building nuclear power plants, "where's Bill?", buying a D-7, Kenwood Sky Command, getting Extra before the question pool changes again, gas prices, voting for Hillary or Barack — as a registered Republican, drilling for oil, OPEC and market manipulation, Pirate baseball, revenue sharing, trying to sell coal, and "it came out of the ground... it went back into the ground!"

Our next breakfast excursion will be the day before the Breezeshooter's Hamfest... we hope to see you at both! The next **WASH Breakfast** will be on Saturday, May 31st, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road (Route 88) n Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms. See you there!

... and don't forget the mid-month breakfast meetings, also at **The Beach House**, for the new WPA QRP "Itty Bitty Transmitters" Club W3IBT. The May meeting will be on Saturday, May 10th, followed with the June meeting Saturday, June 14th. The May meeting will include a final decision on what QRP kit(s) the group will work on!

Field Day 2008 is only a few weekends away. Randy N3ZK, our FD Chair this year, will have more information on our joint **WASH Field Day—AAAP Star Party** at the next meeting. We are going to be operating all together from the Observatory this year, which solves some problems but creates some others. And, 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! More details in our next issue.

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

This is often the hardest (and last) column of the newsletter put together each month. Ye Editor apologizes if it seems a little rushed this month, as family has kept him up to his eyeballs — yes, the Son's Wedding is at the end of the month, and not soon enough! Suffice to say, though, if you're in Washington DC during the baseball season, and want to get good tickets to *National's Park* (it's almost as nice as *PNC Park*... but not quite...), let him know, he has connections...

You'll see the announcement this month for the **10th Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest**. This isn't actually the 10th event... it's only been 10 years since it's been considered an unofficial or official Club activity, but a bunch of us (including many current or former Club members) have been doing this in one form or another for around twice as long! Poor weather and low club attendance at the hamfest has sometimes put a damper on the event, but we still manage to pull it off. So, if you're planning to be at *Breezeshooter's* this year, we hope you'll consider both setting up in the flea market with us — if for no other reason, it gives you peace of mind in knowing that your friends are nearby to watch your table if you have to take a stroll — and joining us for a nice, relaxing, fun little picnic.

One small point we do have to remind everyone... we are allowed to do the picnic as a club event, but **we are not allowed to sell food** to the general public. Seems every year there's always someone wandering by, who begs us to sell him a hamburger or hot dog "for my kids, they're hungry, and it smells so good." We can't do it, or the food vendors will have a real, ah, beef with us and the *Breezeshooters*. We can give it away (and often do), but we can't take any shekels; not even a quiet "donation." If you run into this at the hamfest, let W3WN know, and he'll talk with the people involved.

And please, someone, remember to bring a camera! Memories last a lifetime, but newsletters need photos to fill pages at deadline!

April VE Session Results

WASH's latest exam session was held Thursday, April 17th, at the Peters Township Library. Out of seven candidates, five went home with either an upgrade or a new license.

New Technician Licenses were earned by:

- Charles G. Robinson III KB3RDD
- Bethany N. Fox KB3RDE
- Jesse T. Pust KB3RDF

Upgrading from Technician to General:

- Lee R. Rice KB3QHB.

Upgrading from General to Extra:

- Gary R. Graham KB3QHE with a new call sign: AB3HO.

Congratulations to them all. And many, many thanks to our VEs:

Don AE3DL, Randy N3ZK, Bill KB3LIX, Jim KC3HW, Susan, KB3JHQ, Jeff "Droopy" W3JJC, & Ed N3ZNI.

— 73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL.
 WASH VE Team Liason

Force 12 antennas have been purchased by Mark Hooper N5WEB.

The company will be re-located to Bridgeport, TX, in the Dallas — Fort Worth area.

Their new web site is <http://force12inc.com>

WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

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

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2008 Today! Membership Application on Page 11

Minutes, March 13th Meeting

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

The March meeting was called to order at 19:06 in the WPXI Conference Room. There were 22 members and guests in attendance.

This is pizza night followed by a tour of WPXI. All reports were kept to a minimum. The repeaters are repeating. The Digipeater is also working. There will be a 50/50 after the meeting.

The newsletter is out. The ham fest was a success. There was an idea presented to take the place of the Butler ham fest that was discontinued. More to come on this topic.

Good of the order:

The QRP club that Bill W3WH, has founded had a meeting and is considering building a kit. Jim WB4GCS, described the kit radio that they are considering building.

A motion to adjourn was made by Richie N3SBF, seconded by Jim WB4GCS.

Minutes, April 10th Meeting

Larry Comden K3VX, President, *WASH*

(Minutes not available by newsletter deadline)

WASH Spotlight: HVOB



No, it's not a Vatican call sign, but the acronym for the Highly Versatile Orange Box.

Congratulations to Paul Lusardi NØVLR for his article on the HVOB in May 2008 QST, and for his demonstration of it at our April meeting!

Photo courtesy of and Copyright ©2008 Paul Lusardi NØVLR

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3NSG	N3MJP	W3WN	WASH FL	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3NVL	N3PN	W4ZE	KA3UPY	
AC4KU	KB3NVM	N3QMV	WA3JPP	W4ZE	
AE3DL	KB3ORR	N3RNX	WA3NB	WASH GA	
K3HCR	KB3PSB	N3SBF	WA4ONC	K3OL	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3QHB	N3TIR	WB4GCS	KB3IJX	(George)
K3SGT	KB3QHC	N3XI	WO3Z	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3VX	KC4WTT	N3ZEL	Jane Wagner	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3WJL	KE8RN	N3ZK		WASH NY	N3FZ
KA3TWI	NØVLR	N3ZNI		KE3XB	N3KEH
KB3FNM	N1NCZ	NU3S		N3YPB	N3OBD
KB3GMN	N3AWF	W3JJC		WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3GMP	N3BPB	W3LE		N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3GMU	N3CZZ	W3RJM		WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GUZ	N3DFK	W3RWS		K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3HFP	N3FB	W3SRL		Jane Wagner	
KB3KOT	N3HKQ	W3VFA		WASH VI	
KB3KQY	N3KFD	W3WH		NP2JF	

Through May 1st, 2008

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

The Loose Coupler

Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ

Small loop antennas are very inefficient, either for transmitting or receiving. You can read the fine writings by W8JI on his website, www.w8ji.com and learn the truth about antenna efficiency. This does not mean the small receiving loop is *ineffective*. In many instances we willingly sacrifice efficiency for effectiveness. A multi-element, close-spaced Yagi antenna, for example, has much higher losses than a simple dipole, primarily because the radiation resistance is lower. But it is generally considered a fair price to pay for gain in the desired direction. Antennas don't necessarily have to be SMALL to be inefficient, either. A terminated rhombic dissipates half the transmitted power in the termination resistor. Incidentally, my partner-in-crime, Joel Ballek WL7AI, and I learned the real story about rhombics back in 1988.

A few years before, Joel and I had put up a 160 meter rhombic on his farm. It was about two wavelengths per leg, aimed toward the lower 48. It worked okay, but nothing to write home about. In the intervening years, the ground-mounted termination resistor had been snagged by a moose and dragged off somewhere into the wilderness. 1988 came around with a HUGE opening on 10 meters. The rhombic was still standing, minus its termination resistor, so Joel had the bright idea of using this on 10 meters, which was somewhere around 30 wavelengths long. We decided to use a few 2 watt resistors to replace the moose-trampled terminator of the previous incarnation. We had both bought the conventional wisdom that, in a very long rhombic, all the energy is "radiated before it gets to the terminator anyway." Joel had a "full gallon" on ten meters, so we decided to impress some lower 48 "DX" stations with our death ray. Our termination resistors, nearly a third of a mile away, instantaneously evaporated. So much for "all the power being radiated." Lesson learned. We replaced our evaporated resistors with a genuine high-power terminator (a Heathkit Cantenna and 16:1 balun), and THEN enjoyed our death ray.

Now, when it comes to receiving antennas, efficiency has a slightly different connotation. We aren't too worried about things burning up, because the power levels are minuscule. But in a very small loop, the radiation resistance is still minuscule, and the resistive component is primarily wire loss. This would normally increase the thermal agitation noise as well, except that small antennas also have a very high Q, which limits the noise bandwidth considerably. So we can STILL come out ahead. Additionally, at the frequencies where small tuned loops are used, mainly the lower frequency ham bands, atmospheric noise is the limiting factor. Having either a very low noise, or very sensitive antenna benefits us little, if anything.

When sensitivity is at a premium, one wants to carefully match the antenna impedance, or antenna SYSTEM impedance to the receiver front end. This assures maximum power transfer from the antenna to the receiver. However, this situation doesn't necessarily give you the best advantage for a small loop...extremely high Q and a very usable sharp null. Back in the dark ages, many crystal radio operators intuitively understood this, though perhaps not knowing why it worked. The "loose coupler" was a prized possession of early radio pioneers.

The fact of the matter is, the small, tuned receiver loop exhibits its BEST performance when nothing is attached to it...when it's floating out there in space. To take full advantage of the small loop, we need to allow it to, as closely as possible, exist in that ideal state. We can approach that state by extremely LOOSE coupling to our receiver. For example, if we build a one-foot-square, 100 turn frame loop, we might use a single turn 6' loop concentrically located to transfer the energy to our receiver. This is NOTHING RESEMBLING an impedance match. But it's more than GOOD ENOUGH, because we gain the advantages of the small loop...lots of selectivity, nice sharp nulls (excellent for getting rid of B.C. band overload) and immunity to many types of local man-made noise. Yes, it's a serious compromise, but it's the CORRECT compromise.

If there is a "moral" to the story, it's that EVERYTHING we do in amateur radio involves tradeoffs. The effective radio amateur knows which tradeoffs work and which ones don't. We might be aghast at the thought of operating ANYTHING with a 10:1 or even a 100:1 mismatch. But if it works, it works!

Buying a Used Amplifier

Charles L. Young Jr. KY5U courtesy of www.qrz.com

Beware one of the eBay seller "silent lie" tricks when selling used amplifiers to "newbees." Know whether the power quoted in the ad refers to "input" or "output" power when buying an amplifier. A 1200W input power amplifier with sweep tubes and about 1KV plate voltage will only put out about 500W (depends on the class of the amplifier and the efficiency factor). So look for what the seller promises for "output power" in PEP. If he does not list the output power, please ask.

A very rough thumbnail of tube type and output power:

- 2 each 572B tubes = 600 W PEP
- 4 each 6LQ6 = 500 W PEP
- (or other sweep tube)
- 1 each 3-500Z tube = 500 — 800 W
- 2 each 3-500Z tubes = >1 KW
- 4 each 811 tubes = 800 W PEP
- 3 each 811 Tubes = 600 W PEP



A few eBay sellers will advertise a 1200W amplifier based on the input power rating of the linear. This is misleading. Some refer only to "full rated output". Always ask for the output power. I have seen "1200W input" amps with weak tubes or HV circuits put out about 200-300W. Be forewarned.

If you have any doubts, ask an experienced Amateur for help.

A Modern -Day Fortune Cookie?

Fortune Not Found:
Abort, Retry, Ignore?
Lucky Numbers 10, 22, 38, 49, 5, 47

Mecca Mean Time? FOXNews.com

London, April 21st, 2008 — At the conference, "Mecca, the Center of the Earth, Theory and Practice," Muslim scientists and clerics called for the change, arguing that the holy city in Saudi Arabia is the center of the Earth and should be the reference point for world time, not Greenwich, England, the British Broadcasting Corp. reports.

One geologist at the Qatar conference said Mecca's longitude is perfectly aligned with magnetic north and should therefore replace the English city, which has been measuring time zones since 1884, the BBC reports.

Attendees of the conference also reviewed the "Mecca Watch," an invention by a French Muslim which reportedly rotates counter-clockwise and displays Mecca's direction from any point in the world, the BBC said.

The conference is part of a trend called "Ijaz al-Koran" or "miraculous nature of the holy text," which tries to find precedents for modern science from passages in the Koran, the BBC reports.

But its critics say Ijaz al-Koran confuses spiritual truth — which depends on constant faith — with empirical truth, which depends on ever-changing science, the BBC said.

Shelby Hamfest Is On!

Putting on a hamfest is hard work. One of the hardest things to arrange, especially these days, is the venue. Prices rise, and sometimes the venue owner or operator places additional hardships on a group trying to secure or renew a lease that can push the group to the brink. And sometimes, this has caused the cancellation of a hamfest... for good.

The Shelby, NC Hamfest had been held for many years at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. This year's negotiations with the Fairground operators broke down for a variety of reasons, including unreasonable rate hikes and other restrictions. The Fairground operator simply wouldn't budge... probably figuring that the hamfest operator, the Shelby ARC, would acquiesce to the demands. "New contract stipulations for the Fairgrounds put the Hamfest in jeopardy."

The Shelby ARC had given in to similar demands in order to put on the 2007 hamfest, hoping in vain that they could renegotiate a more favorable lease for 2008. This year, however, the club refused to "take it or leave it." When the news got out that the site was no longer under consideration, the rumor mill had it that another long-running, successful hamfest had gone under.

The good news, though, is that the Shelby ARC is simply going to relocate the hamfest to Biggerstaff Park in Gaston County, NC, still on the traditional Labor Day weekend! Biggerstaff is a newer, larger facility that is easier to access and better able to handle hams staying overnight. Reports from hams attending other events at that park indicate that this will be a major improvement, despite the move of about 25 miles from the previous location.

When the news broke that the hamfest had relocated, and that it appeared that this would be a permanent change, the Cleveland County commissioners were quoted as hoping that the relationship between the club and the Cleveland County Fair Association (operators of the county park under a lucrative \$1 per year lease) could be repaired and that the club would return for 2009. Allegedly, the politicians are pressuring the Fair Association to reconsider. But careful analysis of the news reports shows little if any comment to that effect by the club, leading many to speculate that this is simply "spin" in the local media by politicians seeking re-election, who are unable to explain why an event that brought dollars into their community was allowed to slip away.

Meanwhile, the local Amateur community assures other hams considering coming to the event this year that this is a "blessing in disguise" expected to improve the overall event for years to come.

This will be the 52nd year for the event, and the first change in venue for over 30 years.

Up to date information can be found at www.shelbyhamfest.org.

I have had an inverted V antenna out in the back yard for about 4 years now. It is clearly in violation of the Deed Restrictions or CC&R's for the neighborhood. No problems, no complaints until Saturday I got..."The Letter".

It was from the Neighborhood Association Deed Restrictions Inspector, informing me that I was in violation and had 30 days to correct the violation or they would take legal action. I kept reading until I got to the part where they described the violation.....

"Weeds growing in sidewalk expansion joints".

OMG, I am so busted. Weedeater to the rescue! As long as the deed restriction inspector continues his appointed rounds the antenna may last until the next sunspot peak.

— Harold L. Snyder Jr. WD5KCA courtesy of www.qrz.com

"I watched his countenance closely, to see if he was not deranged ... and I was assured by other Senators after he left the room that they had no confidence in it."

— U.S. Senator Smith of Indiana, after witnessing a demonstration of Samuel Morse's telegraph (1842)

"Radio has no future"

— Lord Kelvin (1897)

"The radio craze will die out in time"

— Thomas Edison (1922)

"The wireless telegraph is not difficult to understand. The ordinary telegraph is like a very long cat. You pull the tail in New York, and it meows in Los Angeles. The wireless is the same, only without the cat."

— Albert Einstein (attributed)

"No, no, no! You don't understand how radio works! All I have to do is get some dry ice and cue the organist..."

— from *The Further Adventures of Nick Danger, Third Eye* (courtesy of the Firesign Theatre)

2008 WASH Meeting Night Program Topics

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

May 8 th	ARRL Section Manager & Section Leadership Talk and Q&A	John Rodgers N3MSE
May 10 th	Armed Forces Day	
May 16 th - 18 th	Dayton Hamvention	
May 31 st	SWPA Packet Group Meeting	http://swppg.zelie.com
June 1 st	Breezeshooter's Hamfest and WASH Picnic	
June 12 th	Antennas: Dipoles, Beams, Verticals, Tuners	<i>To Be Announced</i>
June 21 st	ARRL Kid's Day	
June 28 th - 29 th	ARRL Field Day	
July 10 th	Swap & Shop: Junqué, Freebies, Good Stuff	<i>To Be Announced</i>
July 13 th	North Hills ARC Hamfest	http://www.nharc.org
July 17 th	WASH VE Exams	Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL, VE Team Leader (724) 746-9235
July 19 th - 20 th	26th Annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix	
July 20 th	Somerset Co ARC Hamfest	http://www.k3smt.org
July 26 th	SWPA Packet Group Meeting	http://swppg.zelie.com
August 2 nd - 3 rd	Pittsburgh 250 Special Event	<i>To Be Announced</i>
August 14 th	Antennas: VHF & UHF	<i>To Be Announced</i>
August 24 th	Skyview RS Hamfest	http://www.skyviewradio.net
August 30 th	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	http://www.w3pie.org
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>

BPL: Dead In Dallas

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

The *Dallas Morning News* has reported that "an ambitious plan for using power lines to deliver fast Internet service to 2 million Dallas-area homes collapsed Thursday." Current Group, LLC has announced plans to sell its Dallas BPL network to Oncor, a regulated electric distribution and transmission business, for \$90 million. Oncor reportedly has no plans to offer Internet service but will use the network to detect distribution network issues. While Current originally touted the network as a way to offer Internet service to consumers and had entered into a marketing arrangement with DirecTV, the *Houston Chronicle* quotes Oncor spokesman Chris Schein as confirming that Oncor will use the network only for monitoring the power grid: "Our business is delivering electricity, not being an Internet provider or a television provider."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed that "This announcement underscores yet again that the Bush Administration made a fundamental error in judgment when it erroneously identified BPL as a potential 'third wire' delivering broadband to consumers. As the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit determined last week, the FCC then compounded the error by 'cherry-picking' from its staff studies and ignoring other studies that proved the FCC was underestimating the interference potential of BPL systems. One can only hope that this latest marketplace failure of BPL will send a clear message that the answer to expanding consumer broadband access lies with other, more promising technologies that do not have such a potential to pollute the radio spectrum."

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, was quick to point out that BPL was not going away in Dallas. According to Oncor Vice President Jim Greer, Oncor will use the BPL network to spot grid problems to detect large power outages before they affect customers. Oncor will not offer Internet service through the system as Current had originally planned when they built it.

The ARRL has no issues with BPL as long as it does not cause harmful interference to the amateur bands. Current's Dallas system is a good example of that, Hare said, as it is "notched" so as not to interfere with the Amateur Radio Service: "The Current system in Dallas is probably not causing interference to ham radio. Their equipment doesn't use the ham bands. It is also quiet except when in use. For meter reading and other utility applications, nearby modems may make the occasional short burst of noise, but not the cacophony of sound we hear with some other systems. You would probably be able to tell that BPL is there if you tune outside the ham bands. From an EMC perspective, what is needed now to complete this progress are regulations and standards that match BPL's most successful models."

DirecTV customers who get Internet service through Current's network will probably lose service when the deal goes through. "Oncor is not in the telecommunications business, and it has no plans to get into the telecommunications business," said Schein.

Dallas and Houston are the only metropolitan areas in Texas with BPL. In the past, the City of Austin looked at incorporating a BPL system in their community, but decided not to do so. In a report on how the BPL trial it undertook worked for them, the City of Austin summarized its reasons for that decision.

Field Day 2008 Rules & Forms 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

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>



DX News Briefs

The Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association will be operating a special event call of **VR2ØØ80** 15 July through 31 August, to celebrate the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. They will be QRV 40—6 meters, primarily SSB, RTTY & PSK-31. QSL Direct only, they will not be using Logbook of the World or eQSL. — VR2XMQ



DL1YMK reports that everything is settled now for this year's EME DXpedition to Uruguay. They will be QRV through 12 May using the callsign **DL1YMK/CX**, "We have been struggling for nearly a year to get a fully legal high power permit for operating from CX on 70 cm, 23 cm and 13 cm moonbounce." More info available at their web site, www.mmmonvhf.de/latest.php?id=1176 — F5NQL

Special event station **LZØ8KM** will be QRV during May to commemorate Saints Cyril and Methodius, the creators of the Cyrillic alphabet. More information and a QSL card preview can be found on <http://www.qrz.com/callsign/lz08km> QSL via LZ1PJ — LZ1PJ

Look for **ZØ8N** through 13 May. He plans to operate SSB, CW and RTTY mainly evenings and weekends. QSL via G3ZVW — G3ZVW

OZ1TL will be QRV from **A5 Bhutan** during the inauguration ceremonies for the new King of Bhutan through 15 May, almost exclusively CW. Call sign was not announced. QSL via OZ1TL — NG3K

DL2SBY and DF1SR (ex DDØSB) should be QRV from **LX Liechtenstein** through 12 May. They will be QRV 80—6 meters, and on EME on 23 and 13 cm. More information at home.arcor.de/dl2sby — NG3K & HAØHW

Husband & Wife K9WZB & K7WZB will be QRV from Aruba as **P4ØZB** through 15 May. Activity expected on 40—6 meters CW SSB & RTTY. Listen for them on 50.125 MHz, as one of them should be listening "at all times" on 6 meters. QSL via K9WZB — N9OFS

IØSNY will be QRV from Mongolia as **JT1SNY** starting 7 May. When he is in China 19—28 May, he will be QRV as **BY1PK/IØSNY** — IØSNY

5Z4DX will be QRV from 14 May through 11 June on all bands and modes. He plans to activate Wasini Island (AF-067) 25—26 May. QSL via Frank Steffen Gast, Eskifirdi, 735 Eskifjoedur, Iceland — 5Z4DX, RSGB IOTA

VK4AN and VK4FRAJ and others plan to be active from Malolo Lailai Island (OC-121) Fiji as **3D2A** 17—31 May, 160—6 meters. They will focus on the digital modes, the WARC Bands, and a Multi/2 entry in the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL via VK4AN — VK4AN, NG3K

LY2CY will be QRV as **D4C** during the CQ WPX CW Contest. QSL via IZ4DPV — LY2CY, NG3K

QSL Routes

1A4A via IZ4DPV — KI4RU	FJ/OH2AM via OH2BN — EU7SA
3CØCW via EA3CCU — NN3W	FO/OH1RX via OH2PM — W2IRT
4J1FS via OH2BU — W6RJC	HC5/JA6WFM via JA6VU — G4GED
4L1UN via EA7FTR — JA1HGY	HP3AK via W4JS — W2IRT
4U1UN via HB9BOU — K1NU	J5C via F5TVG — KS7S
5JØE via W5PF — W2AY	JY4NE via K3IRV — NN3W
5T5DC via DH7WW — K1SEZ	LU1ZD via LU4DXU — W4DN
5T5U via JA1UT — VE6TP	OC1I via DL5WM — JJ1BDX
6OØM via PA7FM — UA3FDX	PWØT via KU9C — VE6TP
9G5ZW via OM3LZ — W4DN	PW2M via A14U — W3AWU
9J2BO via G3TEV — NN3W	R1FJM via RX3MM — KS7S
9L1BTB via SP7BTB — EU7SA	T32OU via N7OU — K3WI
9M6DXX via M5AAV — UA3FDX	T19M via AKØA — VE6TP
9XØX via JØ6SI — JA1HGY	TL8CK via F6EWM — K1NU
A35MT via VK2CCC — JA1HGY	TN6X via DJ6SI — JA1HGY
C21DL via DJ2EH — K3WI	TU2/F5LDY via F5LDY — W4DN
C5ØC via OM2FY — JA1HGY	XU7ACY via W2EN — KS7S
D2NX via JH7FQK — G4GED	XW1B via E21E1C — W2IRT
EK6CC via N8BGD — W4DN	YK9SV via SV1JG — W2IRT
EP2AC via RV6AB — W4DN	Z29KM via EA7FTR — NN3W

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

On Thursday, April 24th, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD, filed an *Informal Objection* with the FCC regarding a pending application for a Special Temporary Authority (STA) filed by Miller Motorsports Park in Tooele, Utah. One day after filing the *Objection*, the FCC agreed with the ARRL, saying, "Due to the possibility of interference to Amateur operators and also the race teams utilizing the proposed frequencies, we feel that it is not in the public interest to grant [Miller Motorsports Park's] request."

The FCC also advised Miller Motorsports that if they "wish [ed] to pursue other frequencies, [they] should coordinate with the ARRL and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)."



Miller Motorsports requested the use of frequencies 448.525, 448.650, 448.060, 448.290 and 448.610 MHz at 4 W ERP. They proposed to use 100 mobile units on each of these and other channels at or above 450 MHz for a race event scheduled May 26-June 1, 2008. The application filed by Miller Motorsports stated that the radios would be used for "security, medical and maintenance for the entire event" and that communications service is "vital to the life and safety of the spectators and drivers of this race event." Miller Motorsports also implied that the NTIA had approved the use of the 448 MHz channels.

The League's *Informal Objection* pointed out that "Amateur Radio Service licensees make extremely heavy use of the band 420-450 MHz, and especially the segment 440-450 MHz for FM voice repeaters. There are repeater stations in Salt Lake City, of which Tooele is a close-in suburb, using frequencies throughout the 448 MHz range for outputs, including 448.525, 448.625, 448.050 and 448.075 MHz. In addition, there are repeater outputs in other areas of the greater Salt Lake City area which are in regular operation at all times of the day or night, and radio amateurs using mobile stations would be predictably interfered with by operation as proposed in the STA."

The *Objection* also stated that there was the possibility that some of the spectators to the event at Miller Motorsports Park, or otherwise in the area, might be Amateur Radio operators who might be operating using their portable transceivers "on the precise channels sought by the STA."

The ARRL called Miller Motorsports Park choice of channels "completely inappropriate. The radio amateurs who are licensed to use these frequencies are under no obligation to either tolerate interference or to cease their own operation, regardless of the interference that might be suffered at any time" by Miller Motorsports.

While the FCC has issued STAs on the amateur allocations from time to time, the ARRL wrote, "many, perhaps a majority, are of no concern to the ARRL due to the choice of frequency band, duty cycle or power level proposed," what Miller Motorsports is requesting is "a completely incompatible and inappropriate use of Amateur Radio allocations." Citing "harmful interference to and from the Amateur Radio Service on channels in the 448 MHz band," the ARRL requested that the FCC deny Miller Motorsports' STA application.



Believe it or not...
 This D-104
 microphone was
 recently
 advertised — and
 sold — on eBay
 The background
 radio shown is,
 well, probably
 not a mistake...



54th Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & Computer Show

Sunday, June 1st, 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

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

Table reservation cut-off date May 20th, 2008

More information on prizes and tables, please contact:

Bob Benna N3LWP hamfest2008@breezeshooter.com (412) 366-0488

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



Tenth Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 1st, 2008

from approximately 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

At the **WASH** Club Location

Somewhere Out in the Flea Market

(Look for us in the vicinity of the Grandstand, along the fence, near the Wash House)

*A tradition at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest for over 20 years on & off,
and a WASH formal or informal activity for the last 10!*

Spend the morning meeting your fellow WPA & Regional Hams, buying or selling stuff & dodging roving golf carts full of Breezeshooters — then join your fellow **WASH** members and our invited friends for lunch, friendship, bragging rights, and (if set up and operational) operating N3SH/3 from the Flea Market — with the Tower Trailer (if brought)!

This will be a "Pot Luck/Covered Dish" Picnic — The Club has traditionally provides the burgers and hot dogs; we're asking everyone coming to bring buns, soft drinks, water, a side dish, snacks, fruit, cookies, dessert, ice, or whatever they can.

Contact Ron W3WN [w3wn](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org) at [n3sh dot org](http://n3sh.org) to coordinate who's bringing what.

There is no charge to attend (outside of bringing something to share) but the picnic is not open to the general public, only **WASH** members (including their families), friends & invited guests.



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

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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]

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

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 c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
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Just fill out the form below, include a check or money order made out to WASH/ARRL, and return all to the club treasurer or mail to:

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 c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
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<input type="checkbox"/> Canada \$49	Name & Call Sign: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Elsewhere \$62	Name & Call Sign: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)	Name & Call Sign: _____

Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- Breezeshooter's Hamfest is coming up! Will we see you at the picnic?
- Words to the wise on amplifier buys!
- Mecca Mean Time?
- Courts rule against FCC on BPL rules!
- Busted by the CC&R Inspector!

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



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"This is my Sweepstakes / State QSO party home station. When I was at ZL1DD's home a few years back, I actually used a Kenwood 1000 (or I think that is what it was)"

— Mike Dorman W7DRA

...and wait until you see the rest of his shack...

The WASHRag

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