



N3SH - 250 QRV

... Sort Of

One can say that anytime you can spend a day hamming is a good day; there are definite degrees of good.

First of all, Larry K3VX spent considerable time during the week setting up prerecorded .wav files, so no one would wear out their voice calling CQ. Well, we couldn't get them working. We finally abandoned that idea.

Next the bands were noisy and our CQ's weren't very effective. The pileups were definitely underwhelming. It seems that others were doing OK but we just weren't having any good luck.

We did work quite a few (for us) on 40 meters, but 20 was dismal.

Finally, since Larry had to leave early, we decided to notify Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Paul Lusardi NØVLR and Jack Layton W9UK that Murphy had prevailed, and we were ending the WASH effort early in order to not waste their time.

— Bill Hill W3WH
N3SH/250 Host

*What's Next?
Pa QSO!
See Page 4*

Next Meeting: August 14th, 2008

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

Topics include the upcoming Pa QSO Party, and [Our presentation tonight](#) will be VHF & UHF antennas, plus Dipoles, Beams, and other Antennas Part II, courtesy of Bill W3WH and Larry K3VX.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RN/R and 443.650(+) N3FB/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

President's Letter

The Next Big Thing

The successful picnic and auction are behind us. The ham's part in the Pittsburgh 250 celebration will be over by the time the WASHRag comes out.

So what's next? And what's the next big thing?

August's meeting is scheduled to have a program about VHF/UHF Antennas. Alternatively, W3WH and K3VX will finish the presentation about the inverted L antenna – how to

match it to the transmission line. Is this the next big thing? No, the PA QSO Party is October 11th & 12th. Already at several groups are planning to activate different counties. N3ZK in Venango, W3WN in Allegheny, N3SBF in Clarion and K3VX in Armstrong. W3WH/M will hit many PA Turnpike counties as he motors home solo from NJ. And, of course, we expect N3ZNI/M to activate many WPA counties.

Now is the time to prepare. Join or form a group, spot your location, round up the equipment and get comfortable with the logging software. This is the premier QSO party in the country. Warm up the weekend before with the CA QSO Party.



(President's Letter Continued on page 4)

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“Seen” at the PVGP



AB3ED, WB3CAI, NOVLR



Race Cars Too!

A small sampling of the many WASH members and other area Amateur Radio Operators who participated in this year's annual Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

Amateur Radio has played an integral role in providing race communications for the Safety and Flagging corner workers since the very first event.

Kenny N3VVL also participated in this year's opening ceremonies.

Photos this page courtesy of and ©Copyright 2008 Ron Notarius W3WN



N3MJP Busy with last minute Coordinating



N2QIV, N3VVL



W3WH & Corner Workers

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 2009 Coordinator	T B D

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 October 16th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, October 16th, 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)

Thursday, January 15th, 2009
 Future test dates: Thursday, April 16th, 2009
 (tentative) Thursday, July 16th, 2009
 Thursday, October 15th, 2009

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION'S 15th Anniversary 1993 – 2008

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

The end of July marks the 2/3 point in the summer, the usual nose dive of the Pirates, the start of Steeler's Training Camp, and the monthly return of **the WASH Breakfast Gang to The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's small gathering featured W3SRL & his new motorcycle, K3HCR, AE3DL & W3WN. Discussion items included Scouting, pre-teens, traveling 200 miles after hitting a submerged object, playing near 7000 Volts, grounding sail boats, gas prices, "armored loaf of bread," Sanford's Geese, where's Sam?, blowing fuses, VFD fund raising, Yellowstone, scrap metal, salvage, wet dogs, and a whole bunch more.

With a larger turnout expected this month, just imagine what will be discussed as breakfast and coffee are consumed! Join us at the next **WASH Breakfast**, on Saturday, August 30th, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road (Route 88) n Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms. See you there!

New Vanity Calls: NB3C is the new call for Greg KQ3DX (KD3JB). And W3TSP is the new call of Ted WN3BOJ (KA3COR).

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

... yes, this month marks 15 years since this club came into existence. It's been an interesting time, to say the least. But considering that this is an era where many clubs have lost membership, and some long time clubs have simply ceased to be, the fact that we've managed overall to stay together and thrive is something to be just a little proud of.

No, it hasn't always been easy. We've had members come and go, and our fair share of Silent Keys. We've undergone a name change (two if you count the unofficial one) and related adversity. We've had close calls on our hamfest.

But we have a lot to be proud of. We've made a good name for ourselves in the region amongst other clubs. We've put together contest teams that have won contests at varying levels, and sometimes convincingly so. We have set a high standard for the Special Event Station for the Pa QSO Party, which one day will be topped, but not without considerable effort. We've established a semi-permanent presence in the Caribbean with our occasional operating efforts & 10 meter beach at NP2SH. We started a hamfest, due to a lot of effort by founder Steve W3SRL and many others, in a time when many clubs had or have dropped theirs, and we've overall kept it a success. Thanks in large part to the hard work and efforts of Randy N3ZK, we have a mobile tower trailer to be proud of, and did it without government subsidies or grants. We can thank first Bob AA3FI and now Jacqué N3ZEL & all of our VE's for a long established & successful VEC test program. Thanks in large part to the hard work and efforts of Kevin N3HKQ & Patty KC4WTT, we set a high standard for the annual AMSAT symposium that had never been reached before. And thanks in large part to the hard work and efforts of Ed N3ZNI, we have an established annual 2 meter simplex contest that is looked forward to every January.

And that's just what Ye Editor can think of off the top of his head when he's trying to push this newsletter out the door... it's by no means a complete list, there's lots, lots more.

And that's just the point... there's lots more. In a relatively short 15 years, this club has accomplished things that clubs that have been around 4 times longer have never come close to achieving. It's something to be proud of.

Our unofficial motto was, and is We Do Things. That hasn't changed. Let's hope it never does.

Here's to 15 years, and 15 better years to come!

73, Ron W3WN, Editor

July 17th VE Test Results

We had a successful session on Thursday, July 17h at the Peter's Twp. Library. There were five candidates, and all came away with something.

Our candidates were:

- Brian Keefe, KB3DSC, who upgraded from Technician to General.
- Gregory Sylvester, N3ZEM, who upgraded from Technician to General.
- Mark Bronakowski, who went from unlicensed to General, with the call KB3RMR.
- Casey Carnahan, newly licensed Technician, with the call KB3RMQ.
- David Kohanbash, newly licensed Technician, with the call KB3RMP.

Congratulations to one and all, and we look forward to hearing you all on the radio.

Many thanks again to our VEs who gave of their time and expertise: Bill KB3LIX; Ed N3ZNI; Jeffrey (Droopy) W3JJC; Don AE3DL; and Susan KB3JHQ.

— 73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

08/03 – Dave N3DFK	11/02 – Harold K3HCR
08/10 – Kevin N3HKQ	11/09 – Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
08/17 – Bill W3WH	11/16 – Frank N3FB
08/24 – Hank KB3FNM	11/23 – Hank KB3FNM
08/31 – Harold K3HCR	11/30 – Paul NØVLR
09/07 – Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	12/07– Dave N3DFK
09/14 – Frank N3FB	12/14 – Kevin N3HKQ
09/21 – Hank KB3FNM	12/21 – Bill W3WH
09/28 – Paul NØVLR	12/28 – Hank KB3FNM
10/05 – Kevin N3HKQ	Alternates
10/12 – Dave N3DFK	Dave N3IDH
10/19 – Bill W3WH	Ron W3WN
10/26 – Kevin N3HKQ	

WWW. ORZ.COM has closed its "Political Junkie" forum, according to site owner Fred Lloyd AA7BQ. Political discussions not directly related to Amateur Radio are now banned from the site, due to "rudeness, had & (the) vicious nature of many of the participants."

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

Minutes, July 10th Meeting

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

This meeting was a special picnic and equipment auction. There was not a business portion of the meeting, just plenty of socializing. The turnout was very good and it was a fine summer evening for a picnic in South Park!

Paul NØVLR, was a-grillin' and we were a-eatin'! There certainly was plenty of good food for all.

Then Paul "sell-it-to-the-walls" started the auction which consisted of items that club members had brought. The club received a 10% split with the owner of the gear and in some cases the entire selling price was donated to the club.

The most exciting item was the last one. You have heard of the buddipole portable HF antenna, but, have you heard of the "good" buddy pole? The 11 meter one-liners were flying freely through the air as Paul described this fine piece of radio equipment. It was a broomstick with two CB HT's wire-tied to each end.

I think it is safe to say that everyone walked away happy and well fed! Thanks to Bob, "Always Bring 3 Extra Donuts" AB3ED, for arranging the event.

2008 Pa QSO Party (Preliminary Plans)

Early plans by club members for this year's Pennsylvania QSO Party on October 11th & 12th are starting to come together. Every year, we have a blast operating in the event, and this year should be no different!

What we know of so far:

- Larry K3VX is organizing a group to **Armstrong County** (Team **N3SH?**)
- Dan KB3HVN & Kevin N3HKQ have expressed interest in returning to **Fayette County** (Team **WA3SH?**)
- Randy N3ZK & crew will be operating again from his mom's house in **Venango County** as Team **N3ZK**
- Rich N3SBF & Carol KB3GMN may be operating from their hunting cabin in **Clarion County** as Team **N3SBF**
- Bill W3WN plans to be QRV as **W3WH Mobile** as he returns from a trip to NJ.
- For those who can't travel or will only have limited operating that weekend, Ron W3WN will be hosting a multi-op effort from his home in **Allegheny County** as Team **W3WN**

More to Come!

President's Letter

Continued from Page 1

If we're inspired by the VHF/UHF antenna program get into the ARRL September VHF contest.

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

WASH Spotlight: W3WH NB3C

Bill W3WH, Greg NB3C (KQ3DX), and later Larry K3VX spent a pleasant August morning & afternoon assisting W3WN in backyard antenna updates and additions.

Thanks!!

Photo

courtesy of & ©Copyright 2008 Ron Notarius W3WN



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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3KOT	N3DFK	W3LE	WASH FL	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3KQY	N3FB	W3RJM	KA3UPY	
AC4KU	KB3NSG	N3FPF	W3RWS	W4ZE	
AE3DL	KB3NVL	N3HKQ	W3SRL	WASH GA	
K3AIR	KB3NVM	N3KFD	W3VFA	K30L	K3EED
K3HCR	KB3ORR	N3MJP	W3WH	KB3IJX	(George)
K3LGM	KB3PSB	N3PN	W3WN	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3SGT	KB3QHB	N3QMV	W4ZE	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3VX	KB3QHC	N3RDV	WA3JPP	WASH NY	N3FZ
K3WJL	KC4WTT	N3RNX	WA3NB	KE3XB	N3KEH
KA3TWI	KE7FD	N3SBF	WA3RVD	N3YPB	N3OBD
KB3FNM	KE8RN	N3TIR	WA4ONC	WASH OH	N3SKR
KB3GMN	NØVLR	N3XI	WB3CAI	N8DPW	N3SRC
KB3GMP	N1NCZ	N3ZEL	WB4GCS	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMU	N2QIV	N3ZK	W03Z	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3GUZ	N3AWF	N3ZNI	Jane Wagner	Jane Wagner	
KB3HFP	N3BPB	NU3S		WASH VI	
KB3HVN	N3CZZ	W3JJC		NP2JF	

Through July 31st, 2008

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Ham Radio Tower Permit in Penn Township Ruled Improper

Jennifer Reeger, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review jreeger@tribweb.com

Penn Township, PA Saturday, July 12th — Penn Township's zoning hearing board has ruled that the township improperly granted a permit for a resident's ham radio tower, siding with neighbors who want the tower screened from view.

But the battle over the 53-foot tower could end up in federal court, an attorney for the tower's owner said.

On Thursday, the board issued its ruling on the appeal of the permit issued for a tower in the back yard of Charles Mills' home on Regola Drive.

The board sided with neighbor John Ducar, who appealed the issuance of a permit, saying Mills had not properly screened the tower to comply with a township ordinance. That ordinance requires antenna structures located on the ground to be screened from adjacent properties "by evergreen trees or other suitable material, as approved by the township." But the zoning hearing board not only had to consider local law, but federal law stating that local governments must reasonably accommodate amateur radio antennas.

Mills, a ham radio operator for 21 years, previously used a rooftop antenna structure. He erected the tower last fall, without a permit, according to the zoning hearing board ruling. In March, the township issued a permit for the tower with the conditions that it be placed to the rear of Mills' home, no closer than 20 feet to any adjoining property line, and that it be screened. No site plan was reviewed.

Mills moved the tower to the rear of his home without any screening installed. When the township asked for specifics regarding screening, Mills provided a hand-drawn diagram showing a proposal to screen the tower with two holly trees. The township deemed that the screening satisfied the ordinance, and reissued the permit in April.

But zoning hearing board members said the permit should never have been issued in the first place because Mills did not provide plans for the location or the screening of the tower. They also concluded that the two holly trees do not provide adequate screening, so the revised permit was also granted improperly.

"Requiring the owner to provide more appropriate screening proposals, including the possible relocation of the antenna, does not effectively preclude the operation of the amateur radio station on his property," the board wrote.

Mills said the decision was "very disappointing" and the ruling is effectively prohibiting his amateur radio tower, a violation of federal law. "Compliance with the ordinance is just impossible given the vagueness of it, given the restrictions I'm under in terms of where I can locate the tower on my property," he said. "It's just a very, very frustrating situation, obviously."

Mills' attorney, Michael Lazaroff, said he was "very likely" to advise his client to appeal, either in state or federal court. The township ordinance is "very vague," he said. "It doesn't specify any amount of screening. It's left up to the permitting officer, and he decided our screening was adequate."

He said Mills cannot comply because in one direction his property is bordered by a driveway and cannot be screened by plants or evergreens.

"It has the effect of precluding amateur radio communications from that property and federal law is clear you cannot do that," Lazaroff said.

But board member Tony Marks said the board took federal law seriously. "We are not restricting the tower or the use," he said. "We are saying it did not comply with what would be considered the minimal amount of screening."

Ducar could not be reached for comment yesterday. But neighbor Susan Frey, who testified before the board in favor of Ducar's appeal, said she was happy with the decision. She said she and other neighbors just wanted the ordinance to be followed in the first place. "We're trying to just get the township to do what they're supposed to do and have it screened," she said.

Editor's Notes:

1. *The amateur involved in Chuck W3YNI, son of the original W3YNI.*
2. *His attorney is K3AIR, who is the ARRL Volunteer Counsel for WPA.*
3. *There's much more to the story than what was reported in the newspaper and on-line.*
4. *And... it ain't over yet!*

PA PRB-1 Bill Languishing in Harrisburg

Bill Edgar N3LLR, Director, ARRL Atlantic Division (courtesy of the ARRL) n3llr@arrl.org

The "model antenna bill," PRB-1" is languishing in the PA state legislature despite passage by 26 other states. Time for us to get off the sidelines and take action before it dies with this session.

The Senate voted SB 884 out of committee on June 25th and laid it on the table the same day. The House Bill, 1777 remains in committee and has not moved from the Local Government Committee since August 2007. The Legislature is in summer recess until September 15th when it reconvenes for a short pre-election session, then a brief "lame duck" session.

If it does not pass this session, *the process must begin anew.*

Time to contact your Senators and urge the bill be moved to the floor for a vote. Remember, the House must do the same so there is a long way to go.

Be a squeaky wheel and write, phone visit your State Reps. You can find them easily by going to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> . Go to the House and/or Senate tabs and enter you zip code. (Note, you can also find the bill(s) from this webpage.)

Be sure to ask them to contact their colleagues to move these bills forward before they die with the session.

If you have friends in other clubs in the state, it would be a good idea to ask them to do likewise

Editor's Note:

Think someone else will do it, so you don't have to? Think again — and if you have to wonder why, just think about what W3YNI is going through and what it's going to ultimately cost him... whether or not he "wins" his permit back...

July Picnic/Auction

Photos This Page Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2008 Glen Roberts KE7FD



July Picnic/Auction

Photos This Page Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2008 Harold Rosenberg K3HCR



Antenna Safety

KANSAS CITY, KS July 14th, 2008 — Authorities say a 7 year old girl visiting from Arizona witnessed her father and grandfather get electrocuted Sunday while they were trying to install an antenna. The 65 year old father and 27 year old son both died from their injuries.

The Kansas City, Kan., Fire Department said the unidentified victims were electrocuted at their home at 6125 Nogard Avenue. Authorities were called to the residence at around 1 p.m. "I looked at the neighbor's yard and there was a little girl crying saying 'Can you help me, can you help me, my father and my grandfather were shocked,'" said Deneka Kirwood, who lives near the victims.

The lines they were working near were 7,600 watt power lines, crews on the scene said.

The grandfather was pronounced dead at the scene. His son, the little girl's father, was rushed to Providence-St. Margaret's Hospital, but died a short time later.

The young girl's mother, who is the younger victim's ex-wife, was flying in from Arizona Sunday night.

Robert Mullendore, a spokesman for Kansas City Power & Light, said surviving those types of shocks is rare. "There are people who will survive — they're lucky by the grace of God, its high energy — even those who survive have pretty wicked wounds and they are life long wounds." — *Sloane Heller, courtesy of KSHB TV 41*

The names have not been released, but the address given matches that of Ed Thomas KCØTIG — Duncan MacLachlan KUØDM

I just saw this one on the news, and had to write a this message to be passed on to the ham community, especially the newer hams.

We lost another ham today, and it is a very sad event. The parties involved, were installing a Comet FIBERGLASS antenna, that came in contact with a single 7620 V power line. Now how do I know what the exact voltage is? I built and maintained the substation that fed this circuit. I spent 27 years as a substation technician for the Board of Public Utilities. I am still in this field. So, I feel I have some experience in what I am passing along.

In a nutshell, the location of the accident was a few blocks from the substation. The wires you see going thru the residential areas are AT MINIMUM 7200 volts from each wire to ground, and between any two of them is 13,800 volts. This is nothing to play with at any time. I have seen a fault TOTALLY vaporize 1" copper buss (which is solid). Imagine what it can do to a human.

Each wire is fed from what is called a 3 phase line. From there, it can be broken off and sent down a property line as a single wire. Those are called "laterals" Yes, you will see a device at the break out point, and this is a fuse. BUT the caution needs to be conveyed. These fuses are in the 60-100 amp range. This is at 7200 volts. On top of that, anytime a tree falls across a line, or a pole gets hit, there is a circuit on the "feeder" at the substation that AUTOMATICALLY closes the feeder back in, and TRIES to restore the power to the area. Some of these "reclosers" can operate 2 — 5 times, depending on how they are set.

Now from the substation end, the protective device is set for the full fault capabilities of the line. In the case of BPU, this can be set at 600 AMPS, and multiples of that value. The protective devices are set for what is called a "time" or and "instantaneous" operation. Picture a fast blow fuse and a slow blow, and you will understand the difference in the settings. These setting are at multiple of the 600 amp value. So, if there is a direct short, then it will not trip until it reaches a value at, oh lets say, 8 times that value. So we are looking at 4800 amps. and this is at 7200 volts and lower. So, it trips, then it energizes it AGAIN. The possibility of survival is slim and none.

Now remember how I said they were installing a FIBERGLASS antenna? Well guess what. It is metal inside. Yes, fiberglass does not radiate as we all know. Hence the metal. That is what caused the accident. They got too close to the line (remember your 'magnetic lines of flux' theory? If not, look it up on the web). There is a minimum approach area that MUST be followed. This changes for ALL voltages. This distance must NOT be broken. If it is a flashover will happen, and it is not pretty. Electricity will find the shortest path to ground. In this case it was a couple of men.

Folks, this is nothing to take chances with. In my almost 30 yrs as a ham, and 27 yrs in the power utility field, I have seen way too many "accidents." Stop, look and if it is close or SEEMS that way — DON'T. Find another place.

High voltage lines are NOT forgiving. Your life depends on it. You always hear "it is the amps not the volts" well I can tell you when you get at these levels, who is going to argue what killed the person who had the accident.

PLEASE, PLEASE follow the warnings. ANYWHERE close is too close. Stay safe, and I hope we can enjoy many more years of hamming.

— Chuck Kraly KØXM (courtesy of www.qrz.com)

Ham Radio Is A Real Value

Mike Herr WA6ARA courtesy of the Sierra ARC

As a kid in the '60s I hung around my father, WB6MNX, and his ham buddies. The talk in those days was pretty much similar to now, what features their new rig had. But one thing I now note is that each ham had but one rig, yep, just one rig. It was usually a HF rig, and it was used both in the house and in the car. Before the 2 meter revolution everyone, except for the few brave experimenters in the VHF regions, was on the HF bands. But why did most ops have only one rig? The answer is simple economics; radio equipment was expensive back then.

As a novice I would lust over the Heathkit "perfect" novice station, the DX-60B, HR-10 receiver and HG-10B VFO. Wow! Ninety watts on CW or AM on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters (In my Novice days we only had privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meter). But with a price tag of \$200 it was way out of reach for a lot of people, especially for a teenager.

Today ham radios are much cheaper and offer much more features than rigs available to Amateurs in the mid 1960's. I cannot comment on every ham's financial situation but when comparing selling prices, average salaries and technological features, Amateur Radio is a bargain today.

Let's take a look at the previously mentioned DX-60B, HR-10 and HG-10B station. In 1965 it cost about \$200, only offered two modes (AM and CW), took up an entire desktop and it generated enough heat to warm half the house. Adjusted for inflation the "perfect" Heathkit novice station would cost \$1,323.00 today! Compared to entry level radios today that offer 100 watts on all Amateur bands, all modes (AM, FM, CW, SSB and digital), dual VFOs, general coverage receive and all sorts of bells and whistles, not to mention outstanding dynamic receivers and clean, stable transmitted signals, when adjusted for inflation, would have cost less than half the price of the 1965 model.

The Heathkit HW-101, an entry level SSB rig for many operators during the '60s and 70s, sold as a kit in 1971 for \$350. In today's dollars that same unit would be \$1,849, which buys a heck of a lot more radio the old '101.

The biggest bang for the buck is in a piece of equipment that we all use, a 2 meter rig. Back at the time the 2 meter revolution was in full swing FM transceivers were selling for about \$300 to \$500 which translates to thousands of dollars today. There were a few synthesized

2008 WASH Meeting Night Program Topics

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

August 2 nd - 3 rd	Pittsburgh 250 Special Event	http://www.pghhistory.org
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 7 th	Butler County ARA Swapfest	dzibrat@zoominternet.net
September 11 th	Contests: Warm-Up for the Season	<i>To Be Announced</i>
September 27 th	SWPA Packet Group Meeting	http://swppg.zelie.com
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 2 nd	WACOM Hamfest	http://wacomarc.org
November 13 th	Emergency Communications	<i>To Be Announced</i>
December 11 th	Boat Anchors & Antique Radios	<i>To Be Announced</i>
December 31 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 10 th 2009	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
February 22 nd 2009	WASHFest 2009	http://www.n3sh.org

In a surprise move, Hilberling GmbH has stopped production on the much anticipated PT-8000 series of HF/VHF Amateur Radio transceivers. Apparently due to CE marking regulations, Hilberling had to make constant adjustments to the design of the radio and was unable to repeat the performance of prototypes in production models and was not able to justify the expense involved with further redesign work. The CE mark certifies that a product has met European health, safety and environmental requirements, ensuring consumer safety. Array Solutions -- which had been set to be the North American distributor for the transceiver series -- featured the PT-8000 at its booths at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention®.

Hans Hilberling, DK7LG, explained in German on the company's Web site why the company canceled production of the PT-8000 series:

Production of the PT-8000 equipment series has been halted. Due to the persistent challenges we've had to overcome in the process of bringing the official EU-wide manufacturer's model to fruition, it became necessary to make more and more adaptations in the design of this cutting-edge transceiver. The lofty design goals of the PT-8000 could be attained in some prototypes. We encountered difficulties that we could not overcome at justifiable expense in guaranteeing, without reservation, a high standard of mass production involving many suppliers. We appreciate the great interest this project has attracted over its entire course. -- Translation by Rick Lindquist, WW3DE

The PT-8000 was featured in a 4-page pull-out advertisement in the May 2007 issue of *QST*. The ad stated that Hilberling had not yet received approval by the FCC to market the radio in the US. All digital devices -- including Amateur Radio equipment -- must be approved by the FCC, meeting the requirements of FCC Part 15 and RSS 210 (Radio Standards Specifications, Industry Canada) to ensure its compliance as an unintentional radiator and as a generic receiver. Approval was granted in May 2008. Testing was done in April and May 2008 by Professional Testing (EMI) of Round Rock, Texas.

According to the *QST* ad, the PT-8000 was set to feature:

- An automatically tuned preselector
- Precision matched first and second mixers, designed by Synergy Microwave, with third intercept points at 40+ dBm
- Three roofing filters at 2.7, 6 and 12 kHz
- Six hybrid amplifiers from LF to VHF with third intercept points at 50+ dBm
- Seven 16-pole ladder filters working in combination with DSP filters in the 10.7 MHz second IFs of each filter
- 13.8 V HF MOSFETs (metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor) in the 100 W power amplifier; high efficiency (70 percent) SD3933 HF MOSFETs in the 600 W final amplifier
- Three additional 70.7 MHz roofing filters in the transmitter stages for clean output
- Designed with UHF and microwave transverters in mind, 1 Hz frequency resolution with the ability to connect transverters to both receivers simultaneously
- Taps at the first and second IFs for analysis, monitoring and experimentation
- Easily updatable firmware

The price for a 10 W PT-8000 started at \$12,000, going up to \$16,000 for the 600 W model. Commercial and military grades were priced at an additional \$10,000.

— ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Philadelphia Area Hams Nail Rogue Radio Signals

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

When residents of a Philadelphia suburb complained to an area television station about how their remote car door entry devices wouldn't work in the parking lot of a local department store, an investigative reporter for NBC-10 (WCAU) called everyone she could to help her discover why. No one knew anything -- until she called on some local ham radio operators.

"Many people lock and unlock a car by remote and don't even give it a second thought unless it doesn't work," said NBC10 reporter Lu Ann Cahn. "The mystery problem repeatedly occurs outside the Kohl's store in Royersford. When I went into Kohl's [to ask about this], they told me they had no idea [about this]."

Cahn said that shoppers told her that this has been going on for more than a year, and that some shoppers don't realize they might have to manually lock their doors: "One woman reported her laptop was stolen from her car after she thought she had locked it."

Shoppers theorized that it was the local power plant causing the interference, but Cahn said that officials at the plant said it wasn't them. Others thought that cellular telephone towers might be the culprit, but there are no cell towers in the area. "Police tell us that they can't figure it out either," Cahn said.

So after calling numerous places to help her out with this mystery, Cahn happened upon Reggie Leister N3KAS, and Bob Rex K3DBD, of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club (PAARC); Rex is Vice President of the club and Leister is the club's Public Information Officer (PIO). And as hams do, they were quick to volunteer to help out.

Leister and Rex accompanied Cahn to the parking lot in question. Rex built an antenna out of aluminum tubing and hooked it up to a spectrum analyzer. "Somewhere in the vicinity of this parking lot," Leister said, "there is a big source of radiation, some sort of signal." When Leister aimed the antenna in the direction of the Kohl's store, he hit pay dirt. "There are actually two signals there. It looks like [they're] coming from the building," Rex said when he read the analyzer.

Leister and Rex moved in closer to the building and pinpointed that one signal was coming from one set of doors, while the other signal emitted from another set of doors. Rex, an engineer, said that the thing that bothers him about this is that the signals "are running constantly." When Cahn approached Kohl's management with their findings, she was told that "they will look into it."

"The FCC licenses radio signals and these ham radio operators say the fact that some signal is interfering with remote locks isn't good," Cahn said in her report. Rex concurred, saying, "The FCC rules are pretty clear on that. It might be something that's broken." Leister and Rex agreed that the store security sensors located at each set of doors might be the culprit.

Three days after Leister and Rex located the source of the interference, remote car door lockers worked again. "Kohl's will only say that they're working on it," Cahn said. "The FCC says it does sound like something malfunctioned and they have had reports of similar incidents in New York City and Tampa, Florida."

A few days after they found the signals, Leister explained that he and Rex did not think the anti-shoplifting detectors were the problem: "What we are guessing here is that they are probably connected to some kind of device that triggers a security camera to come on if there is a breach. Except instead of just sending out a quick 2-5 second (Part 15) blip, these seem to be on continuously *and* exceeding the permissible signal levels."

Cahn was quick to give credit to the local hams who stepped up to the plate and helped crack this mystery: "We here at NBC10 were so curious as to why these remote car locks would just stop working, so we thought we should really try to solve this mystery. I have to give kudos to Reggie Leister and Bob Rex with the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club. They were so great and so excited. You don't know how many people we called -- police, Triple A, car dealerships -- we called so many people trying to figure this out and nobody knew anything until we talked to these ham radio operators. They were so wonderful and they knew all about radio signals. They created their own gadgets to help us figure this out. We really want to thank them for their help with this."



Reggie Leister N3KAS (left), and Bob Rex K3DBD (right) — both members of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club — helped Philadelphia news reporter Lu Ann Cahn find out just why remote car door entry devices wouldn't work in the parking lot of a local department store.

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2008 the American Radio Relay League

Ham Radio is a Real Value

Continued from Page 10

models but most were crystal controlled which meant purchasing a pair of crystals, one each for transmit and receive for each channel that you wanted to operate and were limited to two to ten channels. They were about the size of a large book and operated at 2 to 5 watts output. Today you can buy a shirt pocket handheld or a 65 watt mobile transceiver, fully synthesized 100 channels, scanning, CTCSS encode/decode, etc for what amounts to about \$28 in 1971 dollars.

Ham radio is CHEAP. In the 60s the typical ham had to work for a month to buy a rig, today it is more like one week. I remember in 1965 when dad bought a SBE-34 and he had to buy it on time because it was just so expensive. Compared to other hobbies and recreation, ham radio is a steal. You can be on the air with the local repeater for about \$150. A complete 100 watt HF station including an antenna is less than \$1000. If you are a builder, parts have never been cheaper or more available. A couple of minutes on the internet and you can order parts and have them at your house in a couple of days. No more waiting for the once a year trip to the Hamfest.

Of course you can spend tens of thousands of dollars creating the ultimate station. There is no limit as to what you can spend on any hobby but there a tremendous value to anyone who is attracted to Amateur Radio. Let's compare Amateur radio to other past times. A decent 4 wheel drive vehicle, with the extras to keep up with others in the local 4 WD club might set you back \$30K. That boat for water skiing or fishing during the summer is about the same. How about the home computer? Again, about the cost of a HF rig and you buy a new one every couple of years or so. Ham radio cost a fraction of what it did in the past and offers twenty times the features.

So get out and enjoy ham radio and stop feeling guilty about the money.

(First Published in the Sierra ARC newsletter, [AIRWAVES](#) for May 2008)

Amateur Myths

Alan Applegate KØBG courtesy of www.eham.net

There's a television program called Mythbusters® that has made a name for itself, by exposing popular urban myths. Some of the crews' antics seem far-fetched, but generally the conclusions are rather close to home. They're usually entertaining, and sometimes quite amusing.

Amateur radio has its myths too. Unfortunately, there isn't a television program aimed at dispelling them. One thing is for sure, the myriad of postings on www.eham.net sure haven't dispelled them! I say this because, you continually see the same ones cropping up over and over again.

What follows is just the tip of the iceberg, and I've chosen them only for their frequency (pun intended) of appearance on www.eham.net. While based in fact, a lot of neophytes and old timers alike will affront them, but that just means they're biased; a fact that will become evident soon enough.

Probably the single, most prevalent myth within these pages deals with the much-aligned G5RV, doublet antenna. As designed by Louis Varney (SK), the antenna was intended to operate on 20 meters, yet be usable on 40 and 80, preferably with an antenna tuner, yet have a reasonable radiation pattern and SWR. It fulfills its mission quite well. The myth parts are; there wasn't a shortened (junior) version, and it was *not* designed as an all-band antenna. Yes, of course, you can stick a big antenna tuner in front of it, and load it up on most (not all) of the HF bands, but the efficiency suffers, and the radiation pattern stinks. Adding some confusion was the fact, that some early versions (there were several) had a BALUN. Apparently, after thinking about it, he (G5RV) wrote other articles wherein he admonished its use.

Speaking of the lowly BALUN... It should always be printed in caps as it is an acronym for BALanced/UNbalanced. It is, in the strictest of terms, a transmission line transformer. Without getting into a whole bunch of discussion, there are two basic types; a voltage BALUN, and a current BALUN. Typically (not always) these are listed as 4:1 and 1:1. In the former case, it could also be a 1:4. Remember, it is a transformer, and its primary and secondary windings may be reversed. Quite obviously, there is a lot more to BALUNs than this over-simplified description. The myth part is, few folks know which one to use in any given situation. This may take me out on a limb with the purists, but if the input to the BALUN is from an antenna tuner (built in as part of it or not), the correct choice is a 1:1 current BALUN.

Another BALUN myth deals with whether one should be used, or not. If it was strictly necessary, our forefathers would have never gotten on the air! In some cases, a choke BALUN made from coiled-up coaxial cable will suffice, but even that isn't necessary if the feed line is perpendicular to the plane of the antenna. Yes, there will be some imbalance, and the pattern could be a bit skewed. However, assuming a BALUN will suddenly correct a poor radiation pattern, a lousy SWR, or a specific RFI issue, is a myth!

Antennas, no matter what they are made of, or what frequency they operate on, follow a given set of known parameters. There is nothing mythical about them. The laws governing their operation have long since be laid down by the likes of Kirchhoff, Maxwell, and many others. What is mythical is the hype which runs rampant through the amateur radio marketing community. This includes exaggerated gain figures, superfluous efficiency ratings, obscene power handling capabilities, and super-low radiation angles. It's bad enough that antenna manufacturers resort to such ham-fisted (I just couldn't help myself with this pun) behavior, far too many of us believe it! If you doubt this, then why is it that too-many amateurs believe that a low SWR, or the number of DX contacts you can make on any given antenna are marks of merit? Talk about mythology!

Over the years, quite a few amateur radio manufacturers have come and gone. Drake, Gonset, Heathkit, and Swan come to mind, but there have been many others to be sure. Some vintage hardware (like the Drake R4C, with a few minor modifications) are still a formidable performers when compared to today's lineup. Speaking of which, the real bottom line is, there isn't much difference between the most expensive units on the market, and the midline priced ones. The reason is, the vast majority of the time band noise is the limiting factor. The more expensive units do sport more features, obviously, and some of those *might* allow a QSO to take place when a lessor radio would not. However, when you're comparing similarly priced radios, the major difference is in the eyes of the beholder! This is why it amuses me reading the responses to the proverbial question, *which radio should I buy?* The correct answer is always the same; buy the one which suits you, your operating style, your budget, and perhaps your fancy. Assuming you'll get the right answer by asking someone else for their opinion, is a myth!

Lord knows there are many more myths. Unfortunately, a lot of neophyte amateurs are going to get hurt, financially if not physically, by believing in myths. The key in knowing what is, and what isn't a myth, is education, *not* someone's opinion. Education wise, arguably, one of the best bargains in amateur radio is the ARRL Handbook. If you read it a couple of times cover-to-cover, you'll know more than 90% of the active amateurs, and that's no myth!

Uniontown ARC 57th Annual Gabfest

Saturday, September 2nd, 2008 Starting at 8:00 AM

Uniontown ARC W3PIE Clubhouse Grounds
Old Pittsburgh Road off of SR 51 & US 119, Uniontown, PA

Talk-In on 147.045 MHz (131.8 PL)

Free Parking! Free Swap-N-Shop Setup!

Map and Directions at <http://www.w3pie.org>

For More information, contact

Carl Chuprinko WA3HKQ (304) 594-3779 or Tony Alviar (724) 430-1277

Due To Road Construction, You MUST Follow the Detour Instructions to get to W3PIE!
Follow SR 51 to Smith Road (1.6 Miles north of Uniontown Bypass intersection) — a right turn from 51 South. Go up the hill to the three-way intersection. Turn Left & Follow to the W3PIE clubhouse. *Vehicle damage is very probable if other routes are taken!* A map is available at the UARC web site, <http://www.w3pie.org>

Church Hill, Mount Carmel Police Departments, undercover FCC agents embroiled in misuse of police radios brouhaha

Jeff Bobo Kingsport, Tennessee TimesNews Online

MOUNT CARMEL, TN, August 6th, 2008 — Arrest warrants have been written but not yet served against two investigators with the Federal Communications Commission who were in Church Hill in June on an undercover mission.

The FCC agents were undercover in Church Hill on June 10 investigating complaints made by the Mount Carmel Police Department that someone was continually "keying over" radio transmission made between MCPD Officer Ken Lunsford and Hawkins County Central Dispatch.

The FCC agents decided on a cover story that they were part of a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Meth Task Force investigation. Now they might be charged with impersonating police officers by the Church Hill Police Department.

The keying over problem had been ongoing for several months prior to the arrival of the FCC agents.

Mount Carmel Police Chief Jeff Jackson said his and other Hawkins County law enforcement agencies didn't have the equipment or the expertise to track down the culprit, although he suspected it was a police officer from another department in the county.

"The problem got so bad we were actually considering switching to Kingsport's 911 system for our dispatching," Jackson said. "I'm talking about entire shifts when he (Lunsford) couldn't get any transmissions through to Central (Dispatch). He'd make a traffic stop and couldn't call in to tell them where he was, the vehicle description or the license plate because someone was keying over him.

"After talking to the heads of the other law enforcement agencies in the county, I contacted the FCC as a last resort. It was a serious safety issue, and I wasn't going to wait around until one of my officers got killed. I wanted this to stop, and I wanted to know who was responsible."

Mount Carmel police contacted the FCC and requested an investigation. But the FCC's undercover operation was halted after the investigators were questioned by Church Hill police twice.

According to a Church Hill Police Department report completed this past Friday, on June 10 about 11 p.m. Officer Danny Depew stopped an SUV with Alabama license plates after it pulled onto Main Boulevard from a parking lot without its headlights on. According to the report, the two male occupants of the SUV stated they were "state meth task force agents" although they didn't have credentials.

Mount Carmel Fire Chief and Police Officer Chris Jones, who actually is a member of the meth task force, subsequently arrived at the scene to vouch for them.

Depew stated in the report he later discussed the traffic stop with fellow Officer Chip Whitaker and discussed the possibility that the men in the SUV were impersonating officers.

Depew and Whitaker then stopped the SUV in the Food City parking lot shortly after midnight and spoke to the undercover FCC investigators again.

Again they identified themselves as meth task force agents, and again Jones arrived on the scene to vouch for their identity. The FCC agents were released, but the incident was later turned over to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

On Friday, Church Hill police received confirmation that the two males in the SUV were not meth task force agents or any other type of local, state or federal law enforcement officers.

"Instead we learned that (the two men) are civilian FCC employees who were in the area working on a radio complaint," Depew stated in the report issued Friday. "Whitaker and I have prepared warrants charging (both men) with counts of impersonating police officers."

Church Hill Police Chief Mark Johnson told the Times-News Wednesday those arrest warrants have not yet been served and won't be served without approval of the attorney general. That approval may never come, but regardless Johnson said he believes the FCC investigation could have been handled better.

Johnson said he welcomes an FCC investigation, and if there is proof that one of his officers is "keying over" other officers he will be the first to take disciplinary action.

"I talked to the FCC district supervisor, and he said he has no evidence of any officer in Hawkins County — especially a Church Hill officer — doing anything inappropriate over the radio," Johnson told the Times-News Wednesday. "I've told him that if and when he develops evidence to let me know and I'll be the first one to suspend the officer."

Johnson added that although the FCC agents have not yet been charged, they are still under investigation.

"A novel idea would have been to tell the truth — 'Yeah we're FCC employees and we're investigating radio complaints,'" Johnson said. "Or, at the very least there's hundreds of lies they could have told my officers. They happened to pick the one lie that there's a crime in the books against.

"They could have said, 'We're grocery store inspectors. We're gasoline inspectors.' They could have named any number of lies that would not be criminal."

Third Judicial District Attorney General Berkeley Bell told the Times-News Wednesday he's leaving the decision whether or not to charge the FCC investigators to Church Hill, but he advises against it.

"When I was made aware that Church Hill was contemplating bringing charges against FCC agents who were acting in an undercover capacity in Church Hill, I called Chief Mark Johnson and indicated to him that I did not feel that charges against those individuals under these circumstances would be in the best interest of the city of Church Hill or the state of Tennessee," Bell said. "I indicated to him that I was not trying to interfere with his prerogative of bringing charges, but I was just stating my feeling on the matter at the time."

As for the "keying over" situation that brought the FCC to Church Hill, Bell said, "I'm generally aware of those allegations. I asked the TBI to look into it. I have not seen their complete report yet, so I would rather not comment on that at this time."

Jackson said the keying over problem with his officer "miraculously ended" after the incident with FCC investigators in Church Hill on June 10.

The FCC is preparing a public statement regarding the Mount Carmel/Church Hill situation, but that statement had not been released as of Wednesday evening.

Two Amateur radio cubesats were lost when the **Falcon-1** rocket failed shortly after take off on Sunday, August 3rd.

The pioneering cubesats **Presat** and **NanoSail-D** were to have operated in the Amateur Satellite Service 70 cm allocation. They were both onboard the SpaceX Falcon-1 rocket that launched from the Reagan Test Site on Omelek Island, Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of Marshall Islands at 0334 UT August 3rd. Unfortunately the flight ended a few minutes later, when a problem occurred with stage separation.

In a statement SpaceX CEO Elon Musk said: "The most important message I'd like to send right now is that SpaceX will not skip a beat in execution going forward. We have Flight Four of Falcon 1 almost ready for flight and Flight Five right behind that. I have also given the go ahead to begin fabrication of Flight Six."

Church Hill police won't charge FCC agents; TBI may take up misuse of police radio investigation

Jeff Bobo Kingsport, Tennessee TimesNews Online

MOUNT CARMEL, TN, August 7th, 2008 CHURCH HILL — Charges won't be filed against two Federal Communications Commission agents who allegedly told Church Hill police they were with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Meth Task Force this past June.

The Church Hill Police Department had drafted two arrest warrants charging the unidentified FCC agents with impersonating a police officer.

Church Hill Police Chief Mark Johnson said Thursday he has opted not to charge the FCC agents based on the wishes of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to "let the case die."

Two FCC investigators were in Church Hill the night of June 10 to investigate allegations that someone, possibly a member of law enforcement, was "keying over" radio transmissions between Mount Carmel Police Officer Ken Lunsford and Hawkins County Central Dispatch. This would prevent Lunsford from communicating with Central Dispatch, and according to the Mount Carmel Police Department, occurred over the course of several months earlier this year.

The undercover FCC agents had agreed upon a cover story that they were part of the Meth Task Force working undercover in Church Hill, and upon being stopped by the CHPD that night they allegedly told that story to Church Hill police twice.

Mount Carmel Fire Chief and Police Officer Chris Jones was participating in the FCC investigation and vouched for the FCC agents' identity when they were stopped by the CHPD.

This past Friday, Church Hill police drafted arrest warrants against the two FCC agents charging them with impersonating an officer but hadn't served the warrants yet.

"Days after the 'meth agent' incident occurred in June, I was contacted by TBI personnel and told that top TBI brass were hot over the issue and would be pushing for punitive actions against all four people involved in the impersonation scam," Johnson stated in a press release Thursday. "We were asked to provide tapes and paperwork to the TBI to assist in their investigation. I was told there would be a high level meeting involving us, the TBI and the district attorney. ... Last week, I was advised that no charges would be filed against the two law enforcement personnel involved (including Jones and another Meth Task Force agent who reportedly knew about the cover story).

"So, last week we picked back up on our investigation of the two (FCC) civilians."

Johnson noted, however, that he spoke to a TBI representative on Thursday and was told that the TBI's current position is to "let the case die."

"If they (the FCC agents) had claimed to be CHPD officers, we would push harder for charges, but since they claimed to be working with TBI drug agents and the TBI has taken its current stance, I have decided to void our warrants on the two civilians involved," Johnson stated in Thursday's release.

TBI spokeswoman Kristin Helm confirmed Thursday that the TBI investigation into the FCC officer impersonation was concluded and no charges were being sought. Jones had been a member of the Meth Task Force, but his contract will not be renewed due to the impersonation incident, Helm added.

That's not to say the investigation that led the FCC to Church Hill in the first place is over, however. Third Judicial District Attorney General Berkeley Bell confirmed for the Times-News Wednesday that he had requested a TBI investigation into allegations that someone was "keying over" Lunsford's radio transmission to Central Dispatch. Bell said he was still waiting for the results of that investigation.

A Church Hill police officer was the subject of the June 10 FCC undercover investigation.

That officer's name came forth as a suspect based on a written statement given by a MCPD reserve officer who claimed that the Church Hill officer was "bragging" to him about keying over Lunsford's radio transmissions.

This allegedly occurred during a conversation the two had in April during a shift they worked together as part-time security officers for a private security company in the area.

The Times-News has opted not to release the identity of the suspected Church Hill officer or the MCPD reserve officer pending the outcome of the investigation.

That MCPD reserve officer has since taken a full-time position with the Hamblen County Sheriff's Office.

In his statement to the MCPD the reserve officer said, "(The suspect) said that Officer Lunsford stopped cars for no reason. He especially did not like to hear Officer Lunsford running tags on the radio. (The suspect) said when he (Lunsford) started running tags he would key up his radio microphone and hit it. He did this because he did not like to hear him on the radio. He said that every time Kenny would start running tags, one right after the other, he would do this. At one time his (the suspect's) exact words were, 'Every time that (expletive) gets on the radio I take that mic and' — at this time he took his hand like it was holding a microphone and started hitting it against his other hand. He acted like he was bragging about what he was doing and there wasn't nothing that could be done about it."

The reserve officer stated that he later overheard MCPD officers talking about the "keying over" problem, at which time he revealed his conversation with the CHPD officer and gave a written statement.

Johnson said Thursday he has been made aware of the MCPD reserve officer's statement, and he has forwarded that information to the TBI. Johnson said if an investigation reveals one of his officers did anything inappropriate on the radio, he would immediately initiate disciplinary actions.

Mount Carmel Police Chief Jeff Jackson said Thursday that although the FCC undercover operation of June 10 didn't produce enough evidence to charge anyone, it did accomplish his goal. He said the "keying over" problem stopped immediately after the FCC incident on June 10.

"The outcome we were hoping for in this case was for the radio to be clear for emergency traffic," Jackson said. "That has been accomplished. The person or persons who were doing this not only put my officer's life at risk, but also put at risk the safety of the citizens of Mount Carmel, Church Hill and Hawkins County as a whole."

WASH Apparel!

Dan KB3HVN & OGS Distributing are continuing to work on the upcoming web page link to permit WASH club members to order shirts, jackets, hats, and whatever direct from the club web page.

For more information, contact Dan & OGS Distributing at 412-655-8787

3rd Area Calls Who Do Not Accept QSL Cards via the Bureau

Fred Laun K3ZO, Manager
NCDXA/ARRL 3rd Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau

Since the IARU Bureau system exists to serve the senders of cards as well as the recipients, it is our belief that the sender of a card deserves to know what happens to his/her card if it cannot be delivered. For that reason we return cards back to the senders through the Bureau system if the would-be recipient has become a Silent Key, or if the call sign of the would-be recipient does not appear in the FCC database. We also keep track of changes in call sign by three-area calls and automatically forward cards for previous calls to the sorter or bureau handling the new call sign.

A few operators have told us that they do not want to receive QSLs through the Bureau. Our first reaction was to return cards coming in for these people to the senders with a notation to that effect, but some of these operators receive such a high volume of cards that we have come to feel that it is not fair for the paying users of the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau to subsidize the refusal of these operators to accept their cards.

For that reason we list here the call signs of people who have told us that they don't want their cards. As we receive more such requests calls will be added to this list. If a call sign is on this list, it means that cards for that call cannot be delivered by this Bureau. The station may or may not respond to cards sent directly.

We do not destroy cards here at this Bureau. Cards coming in for the calls on this list are passed to elementary school teachers we know who can make good use of the cards in their classes on geography and other subjects. At the same time it is hoped that the sight of this variety of cards from all over the world will motivate some of the youngsters to investigate further this thing called ham radio and perhaps end up joining us.

The holders of the following calls have told us they do not wish to receive QSL cards through the Bureau:

AA3WX	K3LGC	KD3V	ND3Z	W3EX	W3QBK
K3AR	K3RJ	KI3W	NF3R	W3GM	W3SMX
K3BEQ	K3RWW	KL7J via	N3SL	W3CA	W3HC WA3APD
K3CLT	K3VW	N3AD	W3DP	W3KB	WN3V
K3CP	K3WU	N3RI	W3EA	W3KBC	K3IPK K3ZD

There are many more calls for which we have received cards and whose would-be recipients have not claimed them. However, we do NOT add calls to the above list until we have received a communication from the owner of the call saying that his/her cards are not wanted.

Unclaimed cards are kept on file at this Bureau until they are either claimed or specifically refused. We attempt to notify those who have unclaimed cards here by e-mail, NTS traffic message, or letter. When there are a large number of unclaimed cards for a particular call, we may attempt to reach an operator through his/her friends or local club if he/she has not responded to our direct communications after a reasonable time interval.

Nevertheless, well over 95% of the cards received by this bureau are delivered successfully to the intended destination.

NØVLR's Highly Versatile Orange Box was featured in W7SAR's column in the August issue of WorldRadio magazine.

Paul also reports that the Box is now available in additional colors including Camouflage!

I heard from a driver... Overnite and Roadway were going to merge, and they were going to call the new company "Sometime Next Week" — Josh Buchmann KD6NIG

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

DX News Briefs

Is there a DX-pedition to **KP5 Desecheo Island** this year?

Rumors have been circulating since the discovery that the 1x1 call **K5D** has been issued to AC8G for 12—26 November. K4WSB received this via email:



Hi Guys and Gals,

Mark your calendars for November 12th through 26th. If you need Desecheo for an all time new entity or for band fillers this will be your chance. I myself only will be looking to make contacts on Six meters and Sixty meters.

If you want to, there should be no reason not to work this station as long as you get on the air and try. We here in South Florida can sit back for a change and listen to the moaning and pleading from distant parts of the world.

Good luck to the Deserving and lets all hope the operation comes to fruition.

73 & DX, Leon K2EWB

No official announcement from AC8G or anyone officially representing the alleged DX-pedition have been received by deadline. No word either from the US Fish & Wildlife Service on whether or not there is a group or if they have been, after all these years, given permission to land and operate.

Stay tuned for more information, if any, and remember: WFWL!

Logs for **3DAØKDJ**, **A25KDJ**, **C91KDJ** & **YN2KDJ** can be found on-line at <http://dx.qsl.net/logs/> — W5KDJ

F8ATM is now QRV as **6V7L** through 22 August. He will be active on all HF bands, SSB & RTTY. QSL via HC, direct or via the buro — OPDX

MØCMK, QSL Manager for **GM7V** & **GZ7V**, has a new address: Linda Taylor, 18 Wyness Avenue, Little Brickhill, Bucks. MK17 9NG, UK — OPDX

ZD7X is about to go QRT. Tom will visit South Africa for a short time before relocating from St. Helena to Tristan da Cunha as **ZD9X**. The relocation should take ~ 4 weeks. QSL via WØMM — G7VJR, ZD7X, 425 DX

K3IXD & W2GJ will be QRV as **C6AXD** (RTTY) and **C6APR** (CW & SSB) from Crooked Island (NA-113) 23-26 October. C6APR will participate in the CQ WW DX SSB contest. QSL both calls via K3IXD — K3IXD

J49I will be QRV from Crete (EU-015) during the CQ WW DX CW Contest. QSL via IKØEFR — IKØEFR, 425 DX

VP8LP will be QRV as **ZD8LP** 15 August — 14 September. He plans to be on 40 — 10 meters with only a vertical. QSL via VP8LP — OPDX, 425 DX

T88TX will once again be JI2TXU from Koror, Palau (OC-009) 15—20 August. He will be QRV 40—6 meters SSB. QSL via JI2TXU — MMonVHF, VA3RJ

QSL Routes

3D2A via VK4AN — JA1HGY	J79T via W5EW — W5EW
3DAØWW via ZS6DXB — UA3FDX	JX/G7VJR via G7VGR — N3XX
3W2BMK via JA8UWT — JA1HGY	PT6T via PY6KW — KS7S
5H3G via LA4YW — DO1DXX	SU9HP via SC6A — VE5RA
6W1RY via F5VHJ — UA3FDX	T32XG via JA1XGI — JA1HGY
7P8FC via ON4CJK — JA1HGY	T88CQ via JAØDCQ — W2IRT
7Q7VB via UA4WHX — K4UTE	TI9KK via EA1DR — VE3EXY
8Q7DV via UA9CLB — DO1DXX	TX5C via N7CQQ — K6GEP
9M6/N1UR via K2RET — N1NK	V63BW via W5EW — W5EW
9XØFR via EA5RM — EA4ZK	VB2C via W1UE — UA3FDX
9XØW via DK2WV — WA3FRP	VK9EW via W5EW — W5EW
C53C via OM2FY — WA3FRP	VK9WB via W5EW — W5EW
C91VB via UA4WHX — K4UTE	VP2MRM via K3TRM — N1NK
CQ2I via CT1ILT — CT1EEB	VP6PR via JJ8DEN — PY2SP
D4C via IZ4DPV — W4DN	XW1B via E21EIC — G4GED
ET3JA via OK3AA — WA3FRP	XX9KA via VK3EKA — VR2BG
FO/KHØPR via JJ8DEN — W3AWU	YI9WV via NI5DX — JA1HGY
FO/OH1RX via OH2PM — G4GED	YN2KDJ via W5KDJ — W5KDJ
HBØ/NØMX via DJ2MX — JA1HGY	Z23KM via EA7FTR — WA3FRP
J2ØVB via UA4WHX — K4UTE	ZV2HQ via PT2AA — PY7ZZ

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

Newington, CT, July 23rd, 2008 — On July 21st, the Federal Communications Commission issued a *Citation* to the owner of a Georgia company for selling unauthorized radio frequency devices (specifically wireless video transmitters) and importing radio frequency devices without filing the proper FCC forms with the US Customs office and the US Border Patrol.

The FCC found that Vladimir "Vova" Reznik, owner of RangeVideo, was "marketing in the United States unauthorized radio frequency devices, specifically, wireless video transmitters." The Commission sent Reznik a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) regarding this and noting the following specific items he had for sale on the RangeVideo Web site: 900 MHz 100 mW audio/video transmitters; 900 MHz 500 mW audio/video transmitters; 1.3 GHz 300 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 200 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 500 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 1000 mW audio/video transmitters, and 2.4 GHz 1000 mW cased audio/video transmitters.



According to the FCC *Citation*, the 900 MHz devices are capable of operation on 980 MHz, 1010 MHz and 1040 MHz; the 1.3 GHz device is capable of operating on 1240 MHz, 1320 MHz and 1360 MHz, and the 2.4 GHz devices are capable of operating on 2490 MHz. "Thus, these transmitter devices cannot comply with the FCC's technical standards and therefore cannot be certified or marketed."

Reznik responded to the *LOI*, admitting that he first imported the devices in 2006 and that he continues to import the devices. The FCC noted that he admitted to selling more than 2600 of the transmitters since 2006.

The FCC also noted that Reznik stated that before he ships a transmitter device, he "switch[es] it to operate only in the Amateur Radio Service ('ARS') bands. While radio transmitting equipment that transmits solely on ARS frequencies is not subject to the equipment authorization requirement prior to manufacture or marketing, it appears that the seven transmitter devices marketed on your website are equipped with external toggle switches on the unit, which if engaged would allow operation of the device on the restricted frequencies."

In 1996, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) released a *Public Notice* "to clarify the Commission's Rules regarding equipment intended to operate in various radio services in the high frequency radio spectrum, including 10 meter Amateur Radio Service equipment." The *Notice* states that transmitters intended for operation on non-amateur frequencies "must be approved prior to manufacture, importation or marketing." The *Notice* specifically includes Amateur Radio Service transceivers to be designed "such that they can easily be modified by the users to extend the operating frequency range into the frequency bands" of other non-Amateur Radio Services among those devices, subject to equipment authorization procedures.

The *Notice* also states that the FCC considers these transceivers as intended to be operated on frequencies where the use of type accepted equipment is required "because of the simplicity of modifying them to extend their operating frequency range." According to the *Citation*, "the transmitter devices listed on [Reznik's] website require a grant of equipment certification prior to the initiation of marketing in the United States, but, as noted above, cannot be certified because they operate on restricted frequencies."

Reznik has the following legal disclaimer posted on the RangeVideo Web site: "high power video transmitters operate in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS) frequency band, and according to FCC regulations users must obtain proper licensing for legal operation. There are no restrictions on the sale of this equipment, however RangeVideo urges users to become familiar with and observe all laws and regulations governing ARS licensing and the operation of ARS equipment. Please visit the FCC's Website for more information."

The FCC warned Reznik that if he violates the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules "in any manner described herein" after receipt of the *Citation*, "the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed \$11,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation." Reznik was given 30 days to reply to the *Citation*, either through a personal interview at the FCC's Atlanta Field Office or via a written statement. Through the *Citation*, Reznik was told that his response "should specify the actions that you are taking to ensure that you do not violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency equipment in the future."

Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**
The Ferry Building, 127 S. McKean St., Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724-431-0400 Fax: 724-431-0401
Lazaroff@nauticom.net

Skyview Radio Society 48th Annual Swap 'n' Shop & ARRL WPa Section Convention

Sunday, August 24th, 2008 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse Grounds
2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA

Talk-In on 146.640 MHz (131.8 PL)

Map and Directions at www.skyviewradio.net

Breakfast & Lunch Served!

For More information, contact

Robert Boehmer KG3F

skyviewhamfest2008@verizon.net

1st Annual BCARA Swapfest

Unionville Firehall, Butler PA

Directions on W3UDX/R 147.36+

Sponsored by the Butler County Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Sunday, September 7th, 2008 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

\$5 Donation for Admission (Children under 12 admitted free)

Free Parking!

Free Outside Flea Market!

Indoor Flea Market: Vendor's Spaces \$15 per table

Food & Refreshments — As Always — Real Good Food at Good Prices

(NO Individual Sales Permitted)

1st Prize: Yaesu FT-1802M 2 Meter Single Band Mobile

2nd Prize: Yaesu VX-150 Ultra Rugged 2 Meter Single Band HT

3rd Prize: ICOM IC-V8 2 Meter Single Band HT

(Prize Drawing at 3:00 PM — Presence Not Required)

Mobile Check-In until Noon on 146.52 Simplex

For More information, or to Reserve Indoor Table, contact :

Dave Zibrat W3VXT (724) 282-9077 dzibrat@zoominternet.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"/> 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"/> (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: _____

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Email Address: _____

Call Sign: _____

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Expires On: _____

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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



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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:

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Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- Yeah, it's a big issue — our biggest yet!
- Picnic and PVGP Pictures!
- W3YNI's Tower Fight & Pa PRB-1!
- FCC agents caught between rival cops? And threatened with arrest?
- Antenna Safety & a bad tragedy
- Tracking Down Rogue Signals!

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



Got Pins?

A collection of Field Day Pins from Larry K3VX
Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2008 Larry Comden K3VX

The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor
3395 Rosewood Drive
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