



PA QSO Next Month

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

The 2008 Rules for the contest, as taken from the web site, are on pages 8—10, for your convenience. Check the web site at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.htm> for other forms to download and the latest information.

All club members — and for that matter, all active Amateur Radio operators in PA — are encouraged to get on the air and help everyone have a blast!

Don't have an HF license, or a limited HF license? Not to worry. Between the club operations over the weekend, and club members running their own stations during the contest, if you'd like to help operate, we'll find a space for you!

Here's what we know of so far:

- Larry K3VX has located a campground and is putting together a portable operation to **Armstrong** County as Team **N3SH**
- Dan KB3HVN & Kevin N3HKQ have expressed interest in returning to **Fayette** County as 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 time available that weekend, Ron W3WN will be hosting a multi-op effort from his home in **Allegheny** County as Team **W3WN**

WASH 2008 Christmas / Holiday Party

Plans have already begun for this year's Christmas/Holiday party.

Bob AB3ED has graciously invited us to have our Christmas social on Saturday, December 13th, at his QTH in Pleasant Hills.

This will be an Adults only event.

The details haven't been worked out yet as to the menu. Suggestions are welcome!

A Chinese Auction and other events are planned.

I would like get responses as to attendance. Please email me if you think you may attend and if so how many will come, as I will not be able to attend the September meeting.

— 73 Carol Danko KB3GMN
n3sbf@comcast.net

WASH Field Day video clips can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/wb3cai>

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Next Meeting: September 11th, 2008

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, September 11th, 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 **Contest Operating**, featuring Randy N3ZK, with a few wisecracks and side comments from Ron W3WN.

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RNX/R and 443.650(+) N3FB/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

“Seen” at Skyview!



N3SEF, W3WIF & KB3GMN

Many WASH Members were in attendance at this year's Skyview Radio Society Hamfest & WPA Section Convention.

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W3TSP
(ex WN3BOJ)



N3ZCH & N3ZNI



AB3ED



Some of K3MJW
Antennas



WA3NB



K3AIR

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)

Future test dates: Thursday, January 15th, 2009
 Thursday, April 16th, 2009
 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!!

August 30th started as an overcast, humid morning for a Labor Day weekend Saturday. Regardless, a few intrepid souls gathered at **The Beach House** in Finleyville for this month's get-together of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** to This month included W3VFA, K3SGT and W3WN. Topics of the day included N3XI & the *Wall Street Journal*, N3UE on the road again, grandkids, gastric bypass, flea markets, W3RJM, old photography and darkroom equipments, the K3, product obsolescence, CN8FB, BC-610's and 75-A2's, the East Broad Top RR, "G" Scale, the PRR K4, insulation, and more obscured by coffee stains.

With the summer over now, why not join us on Saturday, September 27th for 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!

N3XI? WSJ? Yes, in case you didn't hear about it, the Monday, August 18th issue of the *Wall Street Journal* featured, on the front page, an article about "amateur" (ie individual, non-commercial) efforts towards Nuclear Fusion. Pictured and featured as the lead interview was our own Frank Sanns N3XI. You can read all about it at <http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121901740078248225.html?mod=blog>. **Fifteen years** for the club in last month. Can you believe it?

Northern Outpost on the Move: Heard the other day from Dr. John KE3XB/2. John tells us: "I ended up working at University of Rochester as the managing director of the poison center and also director of the regional healthcare disaster preparedness program.

I was recruited a few months ago to come to Vanderbilt University to be the managing director of the Tennessee Poison Center and to start a disaster training program in the state.

As far as radio, not much new as little time, but would occasionally get on HF (including the Medical Amateur Radio Council's grand rounds every Sunday) and on VHF/UHF. Was somewhat active with ARES in Rochester.

So, we bought house out in country here and currently plotting where to put HF and other antennas. Lin (N3YPB) and the rest of the household stuff arrives here about Sept 20th."

Glad to hear all is well John, and your presence with us is still missed!

8 Days Down Under: Michael Lusardi KB3NVL raised money for over a year in order to take a trip to World Youth Day 2008.in Australia. Michael's long account of the trip, with pictures, can be found at <http://home.comcast.net/~pjlusardi/>. Michael adds "thank you for all that you have done to help me have a good time!"

Randy N3ZK tells us that his **surgery went well**. They removed an excess amount of damaged tissue from his elbow. He is recovering

well. No mention of the status of his glass arm, though... 😊

WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

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

New ARRL Membership Benefit

American Radio Relay League

With just a mouse click or two, ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive.

This new benefit — a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) — provides PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project or advertisement. For many years, the TIS has provided members with assistance researching ARRL periodicals and publications, as well as providing members and non-members with article reprints for a small fee. Access to the new online digital QST archive is free for ARRL members

"Having access to every issue of QST through 2004 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. "The best of the best of QST from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This will be a popular membership benefit that will be of special value to new and long-time hams alike. This valuable content will help radio amateurs who use QST as a technical resource -- for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks' -- and for other research contributing to the advancement of the radio art. We know many hams will simply enjoy perusing these pages of history, too."

The archive delivers indexed content (articles, columns, projects and more) as black-and-white PDF images of QST pages -- just as they were originally published. While the index contains an immense amount of searchable material, some content (such as advertisements) are not yet indexed. A full-text search is not available.

The QST archive is the latest in a long list of members-only benefits available via the ARRL Web site. Access to members-only Web features does require a simple registration. Once logged in, members can access the QST Archive, product reviews, subscribe to online newsletters

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The FCC has announced that Vanity call fees for new or renewed Vanity call signs will be increasing from \$11.70 to \$12.30. The increase is effective as of September 25th, 2008

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

Minutes, August 14th Meeting

Minutes not available by deadline

New HF Digital Protocol to Debut at the Digital Communications Conference

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League
WINMOR, an HF digital protocol designed for use with the Winlink 2000 network, will be unveiled at the upcoming ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Chicago, September 26th-28th.

According to developer Rick Muething KN6KB, WINMOR will effectively eliminate the need for external PACTOR hardware. "This new protocol is implemented through a Windows application that uses a computer sound card for all the analog-to-digital conversion. It provides error-free ARQ transfers within 200, 500 or 2000 Hz bandwidths," Muething said.

In terms of throughput, Muething said that the 200 Hz WINMOR mode appears to equal the performance of PACTOR I. In WINMOR's 2000 Hz mode, its performance rivals PACTOR III.

"WINMOR is a work in progress," Muething said. "We won't be pulling the wraps off a finished application at the conference. We're close, though. I'd like to see on-air testing in 3 to 6 months."

Conference information and registration is available online or by telephone at 972-671-8277. Rick Muething's presentation paper, *WINMOR... A Sound Card ARQ Mode for Winlink HF Digital Messaging*, is included in the conference proceedings.

and manage changes to their membership and QST magazine delivery address. Many members also enjoy the popular ARRL E-mail Forwarding Service ("your call sign"@arrl.net).

New ARRL Benefit Continued from Page 3

The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for QST from 1915 to the present, QEX from 1981 to the present, Ham Radio from 1968 to 1990 and NCJ from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of QEX covers two months). Only ARRL members will be able to download and print copies of the QST articles.

QST magazine is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page.

WASH Spotlight: N3BPB



Now, was Bill N3BPB trying to sell this state police officer a raffle ticket for an HT at the Skyview Hamfest, or was he just trying to talk his way out of something again...

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](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	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 (George)
K3HCR	KB3ORR	N3MJP	W3WH	KB3IJX	KB3ENX
K3LGM	KB3PSB	N3PN	W3WN	WASH NE	KB3FQT
K3SGT	KB3QHB	N3QMV	W4ZE	NØPEU	N3FZ
K3VX	KB3QHC	N3RDV	WA3JPP	WASH OH	N3KEH
K3WJL	KC4WTT	N3RNX	WA3NB	N8DPW	N3OBD
KA3TWI	KE7FD	N3SBF	W3RVD	WASH TN	N3SKR
KB3FNM	KE8RN	N3TIR	WA4ONC	KE3XB	N3SRC
KB3GMN	NØVLR	N3XI	WB3CAI	N3YPB	N3XFE
KB3GMP	N1NCZ	N3ZEL	WB4GCS	WASH TX	W3ZLK
KB3GMU	N2QIV	N3ZK	W03Z	K3LGM	
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

Q&A With Bill Edgar N3LLR

Ron Notarius W3WN

Every year, the ARRL holds elections for 1/3 of the 15 member Board of Directors. This year, one of the five Directors up for re-election included Bill Edgar N3LLR, the current Atlantic Division Director.

Earlier this year, Bill agreed to answer some questions regarding his positions and stances on various Amateur Radio & ARRL-related topics. However, due to scheduling issues (mine as well as his), it took longer than intended for us to get together to go over the questions, by which time he had been declared re-elected, as no one was running against him or Tom W3TOM (the sitting Vice Director) this year. We finally got together for a long brunch the day before the Skyview RS Hamfest to discuss things.

It is important to understand where our elected representatives to the Board stand on issues. With that in mind, here's what Bill had to say "on the record" on some of the questions I asked him...

What do you feel is the state of Amateur Radio today?

- I am excited about Amateur Radio today. Personally, if I wasn't, I wouldn't be involved.
- VEC statistics show that the number of licensed Amateur Radio operators is increasing. The government impression of Amateur Radio on state and federal levels has been improved as of recent events, by the outstanding job Amateur Radio operators did in recent disasters, in carrying out disaster related communications.

What can the average Amateur do, as a practical matter, to strengthen the Amateur Service and the radio hobby, today?

- Focus on the positive things with the service.
- Get excited about it and share the excitement with others.
- Introduce new people to the service.
- Get involved with a local club, if you aren't already.
- Get involved with the Field Organization within your ARRL Section — there are plenty of opportunities to learn and share there.
- Ignore the squirrels in the service.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next 3 years?

- To continue with Vice Director Abernethy's and my program of increasing the radio-activity level within the Division.
- Continue keeping members informed on what is going on within the Division.
- Continue soliciting member input via surveys, webinars, and in-person meetings.
- Continue bringing ARRL officials and other high interest topics to the Atlantic Division in the webinar series, designed to help members learn about various topics and issues.
- Continue to represent the Atlantic Division members in the best manner possible with the ARRL Board.

What area of Amateur Radio in the Atlantic Division needs the most attention? The least?

- Increasing the legislative action effort for Amateur Radio both in the division and on a National level. We are communicators, and generally do an excellent job amongst ourselves, but we need to let our Local, State, and Federal government officials know what is important to us, so that we can continue to provide quality community service during times of disaster. Some of the antenna rules and regulations are not friendly, and are downright detrimental to amateur radio.
- Additionally, Amateur Radio clubs all over need attention. We find most new hams do not join clubs, because the meetings are same old—same old. We need support for the clubs to provide better topic material, and also the clubs need to provide activities for their members to participate in so they can learn and grow together.
- Most of the Sections in the Atlantic Division are functioning very well through their Section Managers. They have healthy and vibrant Field Organizations, and they are active. We have several sections in which the radio-activity level is low and in which the activity level needs turned up a bit.

Many parties seem to feel that the ARRL is behind the times and in need of major overhaul, or even replacement. What do you think of the ARRL today?

- I don't agree that the ARRL is behind the times as a whole. We are like most other organizations where there are things that we need to improve upon.
- Our current website is one area that needs overhauled and we have been slowly changing some things. You can see some changes in the Membership sign-up or renewal process. Katie Breen has been very instrumental in those changes. Additionally, there is a project in place to completely overhaul the ARRL website within the next two years. It is a major undertaking simply because of the magnitude of content on our site. This project has already started. There are plans to give access to content owners to update their portion of the website without having the webmaster do the updates for them. For example, there has been some talk about permitting affiliated clubs to have their club websites as part of the ARRL site, and to permit the clubs to update their portion of the website.
- We've got good staff at ARRL Hq., most of which are very concerned about providing good quality service to our members.
- Take a look at our new Membership Manager, Katie Breen. She came to the ARRL about 2 years ago as a new employee who was not involved with Amateur Radio. She has done a splendid job of increasing membership by focusing on member desires and providing outstanding service. In addition, she's earned her Technician and General class licenses, and has served as a mentor to fellow employees to earn their licenses AND getting them on the air.
- Is the ARRL perfect? Heck no. But we ARE working on improvements.

How active a role do the Directors take in the actual running of the League? Is it appropriate to stay at

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John N3MSE & Bill N3LLR flank ARRL's Katie Breen W1KRB at the Skyview RS Hamfest, prior to her talk. Hmm. And now she's leaving the League... (just kidding!)
Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2008 Ron Notarius W3WN

Q&A with N3LLR continued from Page 5

this level, or should more (or even less) involvement be warranted?

- The Director's job is to provide the strategic direction for the organization, and the officers of the organization are there

to carry out those directives.

- Through frequent meetings and updates, officers provide information on how they are doing in following the Board directives and modifications/changes are then made as needed.
- There has been an effort to make sure that the directives are being carried out by certain board members — which is important.
- It is not the board's purpose to direct the day-to-day operation of the organization. That is the responsibility of the officers/.

There's also been criticism of the League for holding the twice-annual Board of Directors meetings in cities other than Newington. Would a return to holding the Board meeting in the spring & fall in CT be warranted?

- Of course. I believe that the board members knew the ARRL HQ is in Connecticut, and it is each of our's responsibility to go to the HQ area for board meetings. This past July, I requested a roll call vote to put on record each Director's vote where to go in January. 9 to 6 said to go to CT.

Should the Board meetings be open (except where inappropriate, such as personnel matters) to any ARRL member who wishes to attend? Is the equivalent of a "sunshine law" needed or warranted when it comes to the League's affairs?

- I am not in favor of that. We aren't hiding anything, but there is various types of sensitive information given and discussed. Personnel matters are but one issue, our suit with the FCC over BPL would certainly be another matter, and we do get and discuss information over FCC & governmental issues. If you don't trust your Director or Vice Director, then put someone in who you do trust.

Much criticism is directed at the HQ staff in Newington. Without getting into specific individuals, had you the authority to reorganize the HQ staff, what would you do?

- Make the CEO more accountable via his and his staff's goals and objectives, with meaningful and reasonable deadlines. Make his salary increases commensurate with how staff at ARRL reach their annual goals.
- Overall, we have a very good staff at ARRL HQ, and the caliber of new hires is extremely good.

Recent Section Manager and Division elections have been or become controversial over disqualified candidates. Are the DQ rules clear? Who determines whether a candidate should be DQ'd?

- I believe the rules are clear. Each candidate gets a nomination packet that discloses the rules.
- The Ethics and Elections committee determines eligibility and/or disqualification.
- I have served on that committee. (A director who is coming up for election that year is ineligible to server on the committee that year)
- In one high profile SM election, a candidate was warred a number of times to correct an issue that would disqualify him/her, and it was not corrected until after the candidate was disqualified. I agree with the E&E Committee decision.

QST subscription has always been a part of ARRL membership. Do you think that is still warranted today, or would separating the two be a consideration?

- A common question. The law stipulates that in membership organizations, the member notices, calls for votes, etc. must be in the publication. Additionally, advertising in the publication from our advertisers help keep the ARRL financially strong. Dues simply do not cover the revenue stream necessary to ARRL financially strong.

As an alternative, would permitting a member to select QEX or the NCJ as an option instead of QST make sense?

- Again, we need to follow the laws so that our members get notice of elections, other member notices, etc.
- To add that to QEX or NCJ would take away from the flavor of the publications.

Would it make financial sense to spin off or sell the publishing arm of the League, to permit the organization to concentrate on Amateur Radio?

- Absolutely not! ARRL depends upon the publishing group to help the revenue stream necessary to fund the ARRL. Without this, we'd have to find outer ways to fund the ARRL, which also might necessitate a hefty dues increase.
- Dues are NOT the largest part of the ARRL revenue stream.

DXCC has come under heavy criticism from some circles over the documentation required for approval or disapproval of certain DX operations. Would you change this? Why or why not?

- The rules have been changed to keep the politics out. Personally, I think that is a wise decision.
- With a recent DXpedition, the group requested recognition and was turned down prior to the DXpedition, for the reasons that the entity was not a UN member state nor did they have a call sign block assigned to them by the ITU. The DXpedition group lobbied hard to have the rules changed after they went and came home. This is why we had an on-line survey on DXCC status recently in the Atlantic Division.

DXCC rules have been "tinkered with" in recent years to first prohibit a new DXCC entity vian an IARU society, and then to permit a new DXCC entity via a 3rd Party list (the US State Department list of recognized territories). Were these moves good, bad, or a wash?

- Not knowing the examples cited, it's hard to comment.
- We have rules in place. You can't change the rules mid-stream and the rules exist to have a level playing field, so that ALL participants enjoy an equal playing field.

How much should the opinions and recommendations of the DX Advisory Committee be considered? Is one DXAC member representing each Division sufficient? How open should the DXAC members be about what the committee is doing?

2008 WASH Meeting Night Program Topics

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

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

- This committee is made up of DX heavy hitters. I would put significant weight on their opinions and recommendations unless there is something showing that they aren't functioning properly. I'm not aware of any problems.
- I think one member from each division is enough. If you get too many people on a committee, it gets unwieldy and doesn't do anything.

Is *Logbook of the World* worth the cost? What can be done to make it "break even," or is that even a worthy goal for a membership service of that type?

- Political question! < grin >
- It has cost in excess of \$300,000.
- It was designed as a revenue stream for the ARRL, and hasn't even begun to pay back — little rate of return!
- We could have partnered with, or purchased, eQSL!

When the FCC dropped the Element 1 Morse code examination, many anticipated that our ranks would significantly increase. It appears that hasn't happened. Should we be concerned?

- No. Ranks are increasing.

Are there too many contests on the weekend?

- Some would say there's not enough!

Should a Major contest sponsor mandate specific parts of a band for use by contest participants?

- Quite possible

Or should contest participants be expected to simply use common sense and Good Amateur Practices to determine where they operate?

- Always!

Should contest participants be required to digitally record their entire contest operation, start to finish, and make it available on request to the contest sponsor?

- This is a hobby. Not a job.
- This may kill contesting for young people without money.

What can we do to get inactive amateurs active again?

- Excite. Inspire. And reach out to them.

Q&A with N3LLR

continued from Page 6

Official Rules, 2008 Pennsylvania QSO Party

Courtesy of the Nittany Amateur Radio Club <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.htm>

Purpose of the party

Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many other amateurs in Pennsylvania, the United States, Canada and the world. Pennsylvania Amateurs receive multipliers for each Pennsylvania county, US and Canadian section, and one multiplier for DX entities.

Non Pennsylvania Amateurs try to contact as many Pennsylvania Amateurs as possible. Non-Pennsylvania Amateurs receive a multiplier for each Pennsylvania County with a QSO.

A Pennsylvania Amateur is defined as an Amateur operating in the State of Pennsylvania, without regard to the Amateur's home address. Other Operators are considered Out-of-state.

Operating Periods – 1600Z October 11 to 0500Z October 12, and 1300Z October 12 to 2200Z October 12

Bands for the QSO Party:

160 meters, 80 meters, 75 meters, 40 meters, 20 meters, 15 meters, 10 meters, 6 meters, 2 meters. Above 2 meters, QSOs are permitted, but those frequencies are not much in use for the party at this time. Interested Operators are encouraged to set up skeds if desired.

Suggested Frequencies:

Note that 12, 17, 30, 60 meter and repeater QSOs are not permitted.

SSB: 1.850, 3.825, 7.200, 14.280, 21.380, 28.480, 50.125, 146.55.

CW: 40 KHz up from the bottom and 1810KHz

PSK: 3.580, 7.080, 14.07015, 21.080, 50.250

RTTY: 3.580, 7.080, 14.080, 21.080, 28.080

160 meters: Try at 0300Z Sunday, Follow 160 meter band plan

Hi Band Activity periods: Sat and Sun: 10M – 1800Z 15M – 1900Z 20M – 2000Z SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour

Mobile Window – 5 KHz below listed suggested frequencies. Keep this area clear for weak mobiles.

Exchange – Sequential serial number plus county or ARRL or Canadian section (see Canadian section explanation for details). Stations on county line give out 1 serial number per contact plus multiple county multipliers.

Work stations once per band and mode. Work Rovers and Mobiles again as they change counties.

Scoring:

QSO points: CW – 160 M and 80 M = 2 points/QSO
all other allowable bands = 1.5 points/QSO
PSK = 2 points/QSO
RTTY = 2 points/QSO
SSB = 1 point/QSO
FM = 1 point/QSO

Special Event Station QSO = 200 points . The Special Event Station for the 2007 PAQSO Party is **W3OK**.

Entry Divisions

Single Operator Medium power	6 -150 Watts	Multi-Single	Only one signal on air at a time
Single Operator QRO	151W – Legal band limit	Portable Multi-Single	Only one signal on air at a time
Single Operator QRP Operator	5 Watts or less	Multi-Multi	
Single Operator CW only	150 Watts or less	Portable Multi-Multi	
Portable Single Operator		Rover	

Station Definitions

A Home station is a station that is operated from a fixed position. It does not need to be a domicile. Club stations are considered home stations.

A Portable station is a station that is set up for the purpose of operating in the party, with the intention of teardown in the post party period. Typical of a portable station would be operations from a camp cabin or tent. Antennas are not restricted, but are typically more home station like. Portable stations are not restricted in their power source. Battery, Generator, or mains power is perfectly acceptable.

A Mobile station is a station that is capable of operation while moving. Moving is defined as travel in a legal manner on Pennsylvania Highways. The antenna must be of a type generally accepted as a mobile antenna. Mobile stations are not required to be in motion while operating. For the purposes of the party, to be counted as a mobile, you must be operating within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Note that this does not exclude mobile operation outside of Pennsylvania. It means that outside of the commonwealth, there are no mobile bonuses available, so no need for the designation.

A Rover station is a station that is capable of moving from one place to another, but is typically using an antenna that is set up on site, then torn down and moved to another site. Rovers do not operate as a mobile en route between stations.

QRP operations are those operations at a power of 5 watts or less. They may be undertaken on any station setup capable of operation at 5 watts or less. If a QRP multiplier is to be claimed, the entire party must have been run at QRP level.

Scoring Multipliers for Pennsylvania Stations:

ARRL Sections + Canadian Sections + PA Counties + 1 DX. See Canadian Section explanation for details.

Multipliers for Stations operating outside of Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Counties.

Final Score = (Total points times Total Multipliers) Plus Bonus Points.

QRP Operation Bonus Multiplier = Total Points times 2.

PA Mobile operation Bonus points: Add 500 Points to final score for each county you operated from where you made at least 10 QSOs.

Continued on Page 9

2008 Pennsylvania QSO Party October 11th & 12th 2008

PA Rover operation Bonus points: Add 500 Points to final score for each location you operated from where you made at least 10 QSOs.

Additional Mobile and Rover rules:

- A Mobile station must be truly mobile, using an antenna accepted as a mobile antenna, and capable of moving between counties without any setup/teardown.
- Mobile stations identify by the addition of /M to their call signs for CW, RTTY, and PSK and spoken Mobile on SSB or FM.
- Mobile stations must submit a summary for each county operated from, and an aggregate summary for the party.
- Rover stations identify by the addition of /R to their call signs for CW, RTTY, and PSK and spoken Rover on SSB or FM.
- Rover stations must travel 5 miles or more between stops to be eligible for the 500 point bonus.
- Rover stations must submit a summary for each county operated from, and an aggregate summary for the party.

County Line Stations

- County line stations may be either Home Stations or Portable stations. Mobile or Rover stations are not eligible. Note: if a station that is essentially a mobile station ie, a transceiver in a vehicle with a mobile antenna wished to run county line, they could do so, but at the expense of being mobile. That would be their position for the entire party, and they would enter as a county line station, and not as a mobile.
- A County line station is defined as follows. The station must be situated very near the boundaries of at least two or more adjacent counties. Ideally the antenna should cross the boundary, but safety and practicality do not always allow that. Many boundaries are in the middle of rivers or highways. The key element is that the station must be set up as near as practical to the adjacent borders. Party officials are available to determine admissibility of any county line station setup.

Bonus Stations: The PAQSO party will at it's discretion have a special bonus station during the party. The station may consist of a single station, multiple stations in different counties, or other novel operations. QSOs with the bonus station are worth 200 points, and any multiplier that has not been claimed yet. The Bonus Station for 2008 is [W3OK](#).

Entry Materials:

Entry materials consist of a log and dupe sheets and an official summary sheet or reasonable facsimile. 100 points will be deducted for each duplicate QSO found. All entry materials can be downloaded from the website.

Entry materials must be received by November 15th following the party in one of three ways:

1. Paper copies of all materials may be sent via US Mail or other delivery service
2. Electronic logs on CD may also be sent vial US Mail or other delivery service.
3. Electronic Logs may be submitted via email to paqsolog@nittany-arc.net

Note: do NOT send email communications to the paqsolog address. That address is set up exclusively for logs. Non-log email submissions will not get to us. Use the regular email addresses for the party chairs. mcoslo@comcast.net or w3jxp@comcast.net.

A donation of 3 dollars or more along with your entry will help us to defray mailing and printing costs associated with the party, and will be greatly appreciated.

Whatever method of submitting a log, an official Summary sheet or reasonable facsimile must be filled out and mailed to the Nittany ARC for the party.

An official summary that can be filled out on-line ant that will calculate the score from your input is available at <http://www.nittany-arc.net/entryforms.htm> Just fill it out, print it, and mail it.

Mailing address: PAQSO Party 2008 c/o NARC
P.O. Box 614
State College PA 16804-0614

Logs submitted without a mailed summary sheet will be treated as a check log

Plaques and Awards:

Plaques go to top scorers in all entry divisions plus: Single Op Out of State, Eastern Time Zone, Central Time Zone, Western Time Zone, Out of State Medium Power, Out of State QRP, Top Canadian Entry, DX, Single Op Medium Power EPA, Single OP High Power EPA, Single Op Medium Power WPA, Single OP High Power WPA, Rover Single or Multi single, Rover Multi-Multi, 20 meter "Good Neighbor" - to be considered for this award, submit total 20 meter QSO's.

Plaque for top first time entrant: Intended to encourage new contesters, a plaque can be awarded to the top single operator from Pennsylvania who enters the party for the first time. If you got your feet wet logging or operating briefly at a multi-op station, you are still eligible. This is not an award for "Big Guns from other contests. The decision as to eligibility for this award is the Contest chairs.

All 67 County Plaque: If you work all 67 counties during the party, a special plaque can be awarded in recognition of that feat. To order submit a 67 county summary sheet to aid the log checkers in addition to the regular summary listing the pertinent details. Then enclose a check for 28 dollars made payable to NARC.

Club Competition Award: A Trophy is awarded to top club competition Station . Certificates to 2nd through 5th place Club competition

The winner is determined by summation of the scores of club members. The current status of club members is determined by a list that is provided by a club officer, preferably the club president. The PAQSO chair will ask for the list after the party and the top club scores become apparent.

County and Section Certificates: Certificates will be mailed to county and section winners. To qualify for a certificate, the Operator must compile more points than other operators from that section or county. In some cases, a mobile operator may be the leading scorer from several counties. In that event, the mobile Op will receive the corresponding certificates. The PAQSO party administration will mail the certificates to the respective winners.

Special Certificates: The PAQSO Party may at times offer special certificates for various achievements in the party. These certificates will usually be awarded after the achievement has been made, and after receiving a Self addressed stamped envelope.

Participation Coffee Mugs: Anyone who makes 100 QSOs or more during the Party is eligible for a PAQSO Party mug personalized with the Operator's call sign. To order submit your log showing 100 or more QSOs and a check for 18 Dollars made payable to NARC.

W3YNI Gets His Tower Permit!

In last month's issue, we recounted the zoning problems that Chuck W3YNI has gone through over the permit for his antenna tower. We are happy to pass on that the situation has been resolved in Chuck's favor, and he is keeping his tower.

In short, according to information supplied by Mike Lazaroff K3AIR (Chuck's attorney), the original permit was revoked over a minor technicality. Chuck filed for a new permit, addressing all of the concerns raised during the hearings over the original permit. After some back & forth with Mike and Penn Township's attorneys, no action was taken on the permit for 17 business days.

Under the law, if no action is taken after 15 business days, the permit is legally considered to have been granted. Mike pointed this out to the Township, after enough time had elapsed — and the permit was received 2 days later.

Congratulations all!



Chuck Mills W3YNI at the Skyview RS Hamfest. Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2008 Ron Notarius W3WN

PA PRB-1 Bill Languishing in Harrisburg

Bill Edgar N3LLR, Director, ARRL Atlantic Division 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!

Call	GOTA	Club	
W3CG		Union City Wireless Assn	1A
W3LWW		Foothills ARC	1A
W3VI		Huntingdon Co ARC	1A
K3ZYK			1B
W3RP		(+ K8ARY)	1B2
KA3KSP			1C
AA3II			1D
K3GW			1D
K3VED			1D
N3WDZ			1D
W8LEV			1D
WA3YMM			1D
N3YDF			1E
W3AG			1E
WB0IWG			1E
WD8PNL			1E
K3DNA		JVARC	2A
K3SMT		Somerset Co ARC	2A
K3WWA		Wattsburg Wireless Assn	2A
KB3GDG		Thick Mountain Group	2A
W3MIE		Crawford ARA	2A
W3VV	KB3POF	McKean Co ARC	2A
WU3U		Mifflin County ARC	2A

Call	GOTA	Club	
N3QC		Quad Co ARC	2F
N3SBF			3A
W3ACH	W3SML	Cumberland Valley ARC	3A
W3CSL	W3EMV	Monessen ARC	3A
W3EXW		North Hills ARC	3A
W3WPA	K3W	North Hills AR Contest Soc	3A
W3YXE		RA of Corry	3A
WA3COM	KC3HW	Washington Amateur Comm	3A
WX3SKY	KB3NUQ	Skyview RS	3A
K3MJW		Skyview RS	3E
W3KWH		Steel City ARC	3E
W3YA			3E
N3PC		Headwater ARC	3F
AC3J		Triple A ARA	4A
N3SH		Wireless Assn South Hills	4A
W3GV		RA of Erie	4A
W3TCW		Tri-County CW ARC	4A
W3ZIC		Fort Venango Mike and Key Club	4A
N3NIA		Elk Co. ARA	5A
W3UDX	AA3YW	Butler Co. ARA	5A
K3PSG		Butler Co. Amateur Radio PSG	6A
W3OC		Two Rivers ARC	6A

WPA 2008 Field Day Logs Received by ARRL through September 8th

2008 Pennsylvania QSO Party Rules continued from Page 9

Participation T Shirts: Anyone participating in the Party in any way is eligible for a PAQSO Party participant T-Shirt. To order, mark on the summary sheet the Shirt (s) and size (s) desired, and a check for 15 dollars for each shirt made payable to NARC.

Canadian Section Explanation: The Canadian sections in use by the PAQSO party are somewhat different than those in use by the RAC at this time. They are: NB NF NS PEI VE2 VE3 VE4 VE5 VE6 VE7 VE8 V02 YUK

Amateur Radio in Kosovo

Martti Laine OH2BH

Many have been wondering what the status with regard to the Republic of Kosovo is as of today, both in general and in amateur radio terms specifically. Substantial progress has been made, and a new approach to get Kosovo totally on its own feet is well on its way. The United Nations (UNMIK) has scaled down its administrative role while the European Union (EULEX) has initiated its supporting role to help integrate the "interim administration" functions into the local institutions.

The United Nations Frequency Management Office (FMO) is one of those local institutions. This Office was responsible for authorizing Amateur Radio operations before and after the Kosovar declaration of independence, but as of today the FMO does not exist nor are licenses issued. You may still hear some stations operating as YU8 since those licenses issued in the past have not been specifically terminated.

Undoubtedly, Kosovo as a "country" has all required country requirements; (A) a defined territory, (B) a permanent population and (C) a government and (D) is capable of interacting with other countries with whom it has established diplomatic relations. As of today, the Republic of Kosovo is recognized by 46 countries representing many leading states and all geographical continents.

From an Amateur Radio and DXCC perspective, a great deal of confusing discussion has taken place; one side argues that the DXCC criteria needs to be honored at all times. Others see the criteria as not being engraved on a tablet of stone but that the rules facilitate "entities" dynamically in the context of an ever-changing world. Both views have some merit and should be appreciated.

Western Sahara (SØ), another disputed DXCC country, is currently recognized by 48 countries and even today it is not a member of the United Nations nor does it have a dedicated ITU prefix. At the time Amateur Radio entered this desert country, no one had argued that it belonged to DXCC. When Swains Island was up for DXCC discussion it was decided that the DXCC criteria had to be changed and so Swains entered the scene. Swains was added not decades ago — but just recently.

Before Swains Island, DXCC used three "measuring sticks"; UN membership, ITU prefix or IARU society. In facilitating Swains, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to keep the UN and ITU parts but changed the IARU rule to recording of an event by the US Department of State, which again opened up another gate for more DXCC entities.

Now Kosovo meets the highest US Department of State criteria - Kosovo is an independent state recognized by the United States and easily passes the US State Department gate, if that gate is honored in the right spirit. With DXCC rules in place as they existed before Swains, Kosovo would enter through the IARU gate because of its permanent amateur radio population and its national society, SHRAK.

The above is just an illustration of the dynamics of the DXCC at any given time, following the dynamics of the world.

The world outside Kosovo abounds with many other examples that offer a slightly different perspective in the international arena. Another oft-mentioned entity - Northern Cyprus - is recognized only by Turkey, and the situation regarding Cyprus remains deadlocked. Two new cases - South Ossetia and Abkhazia - are recognized by the Russian Federation and probably soon by Belarus (EW) and Venezuela (YV). If they ever achieve wider recognition apart from the countries subject to the current conflict, they will become another set of DXCC candidates.

An immediate UN membership gate is pointed more in the direction of those that get themselves established with no gun fire. The UN's potential for resolving conflicts to its own satisfaction is seriously hampered by the Security Council veto structure that plays a major role in eliminating new countries at that gate.

So, the ARRL is left to define a workable recognition based country criteria — be it qualitative and/or quantitative. Kosovo with its almost 50 recognitions is the first one at the gate. Delaying action on the Republic of Kosovo so that it does not qualify for anything is not an option for the ARRL. Kosovo is a country with a permanent amateur radio population and therefore Kosovar amateurs should be welcomed to our community.

Back to the practical world; YU8/OH2R QSLs for the first amateur radio operation from the Republic of Kosovo were printed last week by Gennady UX5UO, and they will be in the mails in a few days. We thank Gennady for his efforts and support in making these full-color cards meet the spirit of the Kosovo case as they represent a special moment for those involved with the Kosovo project and those who follow world events as well as the development of the DXCC program.

Editor's Reply: Martti makes some very good points. But, before we get to that...

Part of the reason for the major DXCC rules rewrite in 1998 — the "DXCC 2000" rules — was to prevent politicking from determining what the next DXCC entity would be — or why one would be removed. No more would there be any uncertainty about what the rules are, or how they could be fudged, as was so often alleged. However, the Law of Unintended Consequences still has to be reckoned with.

One thing that wasn't changed, was that entities that made the list under any of the old rules would be "grandfathered" and remain on the list. So some of the examples that Martti cites, such as Western Sahara, would not make the list today. In short, one must be careful to compare apples to apples, not tomatoes to kumquats.

Martti alludes to the manipulations and influence used by JA1BK and others to get Swain's Island on the list prior to the deletion of the "IARU Society" rule. This rule was, IMHO, put in place to give the DXCC desk a reason to keep Macao and Hong Kong on the list after their repatriation to China. Thanks to the Law of Unintended Consequences, it was used (through the creation of a sham IARU society) to add at least one DXCC entity to the list (Ducie). Since it had served it's original purpose and was being misused, it's deletion was warranted. But that set in motion more efforts, which led to the State Department list — of dependant territories — being used in it's place.

Now, one can reasonably argue that Kosovo's recognition by the US State Department should be enough. But that's not what the rules say today. (It's not a dependant territory, for one thing!)

One can reasonably argue that Kosovo's national Amateur Radio organization, SHRAK, would have qualified Kosovo under the deleted IARU society rule. But, it's not yet a member of the IARU. It may never be, European politics being what they are. So, that deleted rule wouldn't have applied either.

Northern Cyprus, South Ossetia, and Abkhazia are not yet recognized by the UN, do not have ITU prefix blocks, and are not recognized by the State Department in any form. So they won't qualify under the existing rules unless something changes. And these are highly charged political situations that Amateur Radio doesn't need to drag itself into, lest we add to already volatile situations.

Will Kosovo (or Kosova, whichever you prefer) be a DXCC entity, one day? Assuming it remains independent, which I believe it will, then one day it will be. But today, it doesn't qualify.

Lobbying for a change in the rules is not a bad thing. If Martti can make a good case for a rules change to allow for these situations, if he can convince the DX community that this is warranted, I'm all for it.

But — like the original Scarborough Reef and Swains Island and other DX operations, until this change occurs (if it ever does), then operations from Kosovo won't count for anything, and should not be counted retroactively. That's a clear precedent from the past that should not be changed.

Sorry Martti.

ARRL Sweepstakes & Paper Logs

Ken Adams K5KA
Sweepstakes Contest Manager

The 75th ARRL November Sweepstakes will soon be here. You will want to make an extra effort to participate this year as we plan to offer a special one time achievement award. More details will follow in the official ARRL HQ announcement coming in October.

One of our long term goals for SS is to eventually receive 100% of logs in electronic Cabrillo format. This will take some time, but will allow us to reduce the turn around time to produce results and to continually improve the log checking process. For 2007 we received 200+ paper logs. With the help of volunteers we converted all those logs to Cabrillo format and for the first time were able to perform the computerized adjudication process for 100% of logs submitted. This effort from the volunteers took over 400 man hours ... non trivial.

In hopes of reducing this effort for 2008 I'm asking that everyone who logs on paper or knows someone who logs on paper help us.

If you are reading this and you submitted a paper log last year, here are some free resources you can use to get your log into Cabrillo format and then submit it to the robot.

Free logging programs:

<http://www.k1ea.com/> CT for DOS or CTWIN for Windows
<http://www.n1mm.com/> N1MM for Windows

Free software to enter your paper log directly into Cabrillo format and submit to the robot:

http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/arrlscw_cab.php

For those folks who do not have computers or access to the internet I'm asking that all Clubs help their members convert their paper logs to Cabrillo format then submit them to the robot. This could be a good activity at a special after SS celebration meeting.

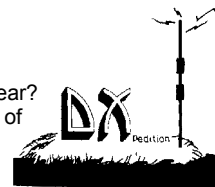
And, lastly, if you know someone using paper logs who is just a friend and not affiliated with a club, please offer to help them convert their log and get logging software on a PC if they have one. In some cases this may involve training, etc. but it is a great excuse to do some ham related stuff together.

Thanks in advance for all your help and if you have any other suggestions please email me directly. Good luck in the upcoming 75th November Sweepstakes !!!



WPA DXCC Card Checker Mike K3AIR examining a VP6DX card during the BCARA Swapfest, as Ed N3ZNI is checking over his acquisitions during the day. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2008 Ron Notarius W3WN

DX News Briefs



Is there a DX-pedition to **KP5 Desecheo Island** this year? Could be! Several major DX editors have been aware of this for some time, but tried to keep "the lid" on the situation until some things had been sorted out. In June, the US Department of the Interior's Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) sent a letter to a number of amateurs who've expressed interest in operating from Desecheo in the recent past. It now appears that FWS is considering the granting of a Special Use Permit for ONE amateur radio group to operate from the island for up to 14 days, under supervision of FWS. This would be in conjunction with planned future FWS management activities on the island.

Deadline for applications from interested groups was August 14th. It is not certain if or when the operation would take place; we may only get 30 days notice, once (if) a group is approved. It is expected that the operation will take place before December — but nothing is definite.

In short: Standby, and Be Prepared!

The DX Magazine's annual **Most Wanted Survey** is being conducted now through 15 October. The survey form is available at http://www.dxpub.com/dx_survey2008.html The overall top 100 will be posted on the web site around 15 January 2009 — N4AA

G3RWF will again be QRV as **5X1NH** in November. He is expected to be in the CQ WW DX CW Contest. QSL via G3RWF — G3RWF

Spain's DX4DX TEAM is planning to be active from 14—24 October from The Gambia. They hope to have C56EA as their call. They will be QRV on HF and 6 meters. More information at www.dx4dx.com — EA4BT

A group of French operators are planning to be QRV from **5R** Sainte-Marie Island, AF-090. Calls include **5R8GM** SSB, **5R8JM** CW, **5R8IM** digital modes, & **5R8EM** 2 Meter EME. QSL all via F1BCS — OPDX

HK1AT went QRV on 4 September courtesy of EA7AY and EA7ATX. They plan to activate SA-078 San Bernardo Islands 14—19 October. QSL via EA7ATX direct only. Proceeds will be donated to charity — VA3RJ

PJ2/LY4F is QRV from Signal Point, Curacao SA-006, through 18 September. QSL via LY1FF, bureau preferred — VA3RJ

TM8JPR is a special event call for European Heritage Days that will be QRV through 21 September. QSL via the REF bureau — F5NQL

VE3DZ will be QRV as **PZ5TT** from the QTH of PZ5RA 25 November through 1 December. QSL via VE3DZ — VE3DZ, NG3K, VA3RJ

KE6GFF will again be QRV as **T6EE** from Kabul, Afghanistan, from 5 to 31 October. His license will limit him to 14.2 MHz, +/- QRM. QSL via home call, direct or via the bureau — NG3K, VA3RJ

QSL Routes

3DAØZO via OHØXX — KZ2I	FO/KHØPR via JJ8DEN — KE3D
3XD2Z via UA6JR — JA1HGY	HC5WW via JA6VU — JA1HGY
3XM6JR via UA6JR — JA1HGY	JX/SQ4MP via G7VJR — W2IRT
3YØE via LZ3HI — N4II	LU8XW via WD9EWK — W3AWU
4K5D via K2PF — JA1HGY	R1FJM via RX3MM — JA1HGY
4L6QC via LZ1OT — W2IRT	R1FJT via UA4RC — GM4FAM
8Q7SH via JA2IVK — JA1HGY	S21XF via LA5YJ — JA1HGY
9LØW via DK2WV — JA1HGY	S79UU via UA3DX — N3XX
9M6/N1UR via K2RET — JA1HGY	SD2O via DL5ME — W3AWU
9MØM via K7XN — HAØHW	T3Z2 via K3IRV — WD5AAM
9XØR via EA5RM — W2AY	TK7C via F9IE — JA1HGY
A45WD via YO9HP — JA1HGY	TR8CX via F5PBQ — VE6TP
C91KDJ via W5KDJ — W5KDJ	TX5C via N7CQQ — W6RJG
C91OK via KØOK — JA1HGY	V63UA via UA3DX — N3XX
C91TK via NQ7R — JA1HGY	V63WWA via AD7AF — N2ZN
DPØGVN via DL5EBE — DO1DXX	V73PX via A15P — AA5AM
ET3JA via OK3AA — W4DN	YN2KDJ via W5KDJ — W5KDJ
EX7ML via RW6HS — W4DN	VK9X/N1YC via W5ID — W4DN
FH1LE via F6BFH — JA1HGY	XR7W via HA1AG — W3AWU
FM5FJ via KU9C — TA3YJ	ZF2GU via DL7VOG — JA1HGY

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

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



WASH Classifieds

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Suckered!

Alan Applegate KØBG courtesy of www.eham.net

Here's a subject not too many folks will admit to, yet it happens every day. Most of the time, people let themselves *get took* for the sake of friendship, love, or what have you. And that's okay, as long as they realize the consequences. Marriage is a good example, me thinks. It's when people *get took*, and they haven't a clue that they have been, is when the problems arise. You can't help but feel sorry for some of them (if only occasionally). After all, ignorance is bliss.

There's yet another type, and that's when people *get took* because they actually believe in the relevance of the data, no matter how preposterous it is to the rest of us. Here's a typical example from these very pages. Anyone believing in CFA radiators is probably one himself!

I'll give you another one, and that's **Maxx-Com** [<http://www.maxx-com.com/>]. The claims on their site make a mockery of the outlandish claims made by **Firestik** [<http://www.firestik.com/>], if that's indeed possible, which I doubt.

Most would agree that the Internet is most of the problem. If you so believe, I'll take exception. In the May 1958 issue of QST, is an article written by E. F. Harris, W9KNK (sk). Because it is copywritten by the ARRL, I can't reprint the entire article. But here is an excerpt apparently penned by an editor of QST; in part: *The interesting development described in this article may well start a new trend in mobile antennas and small beams.*

The article explains, albeit in not so many words, that by winding the coils carefully, and in a certain manner, the radiation resistance will be equal to the electrical length of the wire, not the physical length of the antenna.

The truth is, the coils are so low in Q, they're not much more than a dummy load on a stick! Helically wound antennas had been available commercially for a couple of years before the article was written, but their advertising hype was just as outrageous. Unfortunately, these false assumptions are still with us, as the aforementioned web sites so illustrate.

If there is a good side to this malevolence, it was presented here. This [<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/08/05/10249/?nc=1>] is a news article written by Gregory Lapin, PhD, PE, N9GL, who happens to be the chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee. He stresses the need to have articles peer reviewed. He's very correct, of course, but there is a darker side. Very few companies, organizations, Internet sites, you name it, have the necessary monies to peer review posted articles. Even if they did, who would the peer reviewers be? All to often, the reviewers aren't anymore knowledgeable about the case at hand, than the authors!

The end point is this. Before you critique, criticize, baste, lam blast, vehemently disagree or support, any given hypothesis, you — yourself — should have an adequate foundation to support your side of the story.

If you don't, then *you been took!*

For Sale - Near new IC 7000 with TV MOD and LDG AT7000 Tuner, used on desk at home by non smoker. This is a 10! Comes with RMK 7000 remote mounting kit, and a custom wood mounting stand for the remote head mount. Mike has AB5N mod. You also get the IC 7000, carry handle and feet, remote mounting kit, LDG tuner, and the Heil adapter for the Traveler headset as well as other connection cables. Call me for details or questions.

Dan AB3EN ab3en@amsat.org 724-554-2689

For Sale - Cushcraft A3 Tribander, Complete and working. Includes a "refub kit" still in the box from Cushcraft. New Endcaps, ubolts, boom-to-mast plate, etc. This "kit" was about \$90 from Cushcraft. **\$150.00**

Available for pickup in Harrison City.

Not completely disassembled for easy deployment. A full sized pickup and some ratchet tie downs along with some towels and rags to keep it from nicking up the truck is all you need to make this puppy ALL YOURS.

I replaced most hose clamps with stainless steel as well. A couple (and I do mean only a couple) will need replaced however, as the guy sold me non-stainless.

Chuck Mills W3YNI w3yni1@gmail.com

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

WACOM HAMFEST 2008

*Washington County
Fairgrounds*

Sunday, November 2nd

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on W3CYO/R

145.490 & 443.300 MHz



VE Testing starting at 10:00 AM

Contact Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL 724-746-9235, n3zel@fyi.net

First Prize: ICOM IC-706 Mk II G
Second Prize: ICOM IC-208 2 M / 70 cm Mobile
Third Prize: MFJ 269 Antenna Analyzer
Fourth Prize: Sirius Home & Car Complete Satellite Radio System

Main Prizes purchase through KJI Electronics
Satellite Radio System courtesy of B&N Electronics

Please Visit Their Booth at the Hamfest!

Check www.wacomarc.org for updates

For Advanced Ticket Sales, Vendor Information or More Information: Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI

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Reserve your tables early — First come, First Served!

Pentagon Amateur Radio Club to Host Special Event Station Commemorating 9/11

On Thursday, September 11th, the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) will operate a Special Event station commemorating the 7th anniversary of the attacks that occurred on the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and over Pennsylvania in 2001.

This special event will be held in conjunction with President Bush's visit to the Pentagon to dedicate the new Pentagon Memorial, honoring the 184 people, both at the Pentagon and on American Airlines flight 77, who lost their lives in the attacks. Operators will be on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters — both phone and CW — with plans to operate on a 12 hour basis (1200-2400 UTC). There will be a special QSL card available for stations that work K4AF.



For more information, please contact Gary Sessums, KC5QCN. QSL via PARC, PO Box 2322, Arlington, VA 22202.

Don't you like how lots of us say "local pick up only" in our ads, then fail to say where local is?

—Web Williams KR4WM

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- Configuring the best RF & DC Ground strategy ever conceived: \$400.
- Having your finals blow on your first QSO: Priceless.

— Brent Cobb N7CAV



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2008



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

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

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

(FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? Yes No Family ARRL Member? Yes No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

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



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



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

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

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

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

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

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

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Dues subject to change without notice

Inside This Issue:

- W3YNI gets his permit!
- Where He Stands: Q&A with N3LLR
- “Seen” at the Skyview Hamfest
- Did you submit your Field Day log?
- 2008 PA QSO Party Rules!
- Update on Amateur Radio in Kosovo!

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



Seen at the BCARA Swapfest

Remember the Benton Harbor Lunchboxes? Someone had the complete set — the Two'er, the Six'er, the Ten'er, and the CB'er — in near mint, “unhacked” condition. Only \$300 for the set!

The new hamfest was a complete success for the Butler County ARA — and it's only 6 miles from Roe Airport and very easy to get to!

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2008 Ron Notarius W3WN

The WASHRag

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



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