



# Contest Season Is Upon Us

Working a contest does more than put your operating skills to the test. It also reveals the strengths and weaknesses in your equipment, shack layout and logging program.

**CW Example** – a forced change of logging computers (the “good one” died suddenly) left me without real serial and parallel ports for keying and rig control. We’ll all face this sooner or later as manufacturers have decided to eliminate legacy ports. You’re stuck unless you maintain an old clunker. OK, so long ago I bought a USB to serial and parallel converter. This is a fine gadget whose support ended with Win98! For the new laptop I got a supposed USB rig control and keying device. Works with some loggers, not with others. And (just for a challenge) the keying output is upside down requiring an external transistor inverter.

**All Mode Example** – Every logging program has its quirks. You have to thoroughly know the program. Some use alt-W to wipe out an erroneous entry, some use ESC. There are different ways to stop the automatic sending of stored messages. WB3W’s fine PA QSO logger will not let you edit the Number Sent field or accept a dupe into the log. Other programs will allow these actions. You’ll see why this may be important after the contest.

**CW Example** – The monitor level in your headphones. You are working a very weak station with the RX audio way up. In some rig expect the CW monitor to deafen you.

**All Mode Example** – What’s the objective? Work toward DXCC or WAS or other award? Beat other club members? Have fun? Test yourself? Mine is usually to beat last year’s score – see if station improvements really work.

**All Mode Example** – What’s the type of operation? Call CQ and let ‘em come to you or Search and Pounce? If you have an outstanding signal (or are in a rare QTH) calling CQ brings more contacts. Rates like 120 per hour are not uncommon. Some multipliers may not come your way. My own experience is that S&P is effective for multipliers but the contact rate will peak at 45 per hour and average 30 to 35 per hour. These rates assume plenty of activity as in Sweepstakes, ARRL DX or CQWW contests.

**Continued  
on Page 9**

## Next Meeting: November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics include Officer Elections & Upcoming Plans for 2009.

**Our presentation tonight** will be a construction of 80 & 160 M loop antennas by Larry K3VX and Randy N33ZK. Bring a friend!

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

## WASH 2008 Christmas / Holiday Party

Plans are well underway for this year’s Christmas/Holiday party.



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

This will be an Adults only event.

We have 19 members coming so far. We have a very nice menu worked out (details upcoming), a Chinese Auction and other fun events are planned.

We still have room for more. Please don’t miss out on what will be a nice gathering!

Please email me if you think you may attend and if so how many will come, and I will be at the November meeting.



— 73 Carol Danko KB3GMN

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# “Seen” at the WACOM Hamfest



## 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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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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

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

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

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



# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test January 15<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 6:30 PM, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: [n3zel@fyi.net](mailto:n3zel@fyi.net)

Please bring the following to your test session:

- Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)
- Pen / Pencil / Calculator
- Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)
- Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)
- Check or Cash in the amount of \$15.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
 Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
 Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
 Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
 (tentative)

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

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

October 25<sup>th</sup> was a cool, crisp Saturday morning, and once again **the WASH Breakfast Gang** headed for this month's get-together at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. Present & accounted for this month were W3VFA, AE3DL, N3DFK, W3WH, K3VX, W3LE & W3WN. Morning coffee, eggs, pancakes, and sausage were joined with conversations about Antennas & Antenna Weather, the CQ WW, testing amplifiers, working on an EE at night, Yamaha motorcycles, how'd you do in the Pa QSO?, working DX, assisted living facilities, the Case Western Railroad, Judge Judy, the evening news, PSU vs OSU, Varsity Letters, tuners and wires, SAT's, and stainless steel screws... and that's just what we took notes on!

Thanksgiving and the CQ WW DX CW are coming up, so why not take a break from the routine and join us on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> for the next **WASH**

Breakfast, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road (Route 88) in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms. See you there!

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

**New call:** Lee KB3QHB is now AD3AA. Congratulations!

So, **how did you do in the Pa QSO** party this year?

Early reports from around the Commonwealth show that the solar event that hit the atmosphere on Saturday had a major dampening effect, cutting down on short (statewide) propagation on 40 meters and causing other kinds of havoc. On the other hand, 80 and 160 meters were more accessible for operating than in many a year.

Don't forget, especially if you're a major procrastinator like Ye Editor, to get your logs and summary sheets to the Nittany ARC on or before November 15<sup>th</sup>!

**Time flies when you're having fun...** so don't lose track of the upcoming club events:

- December 13<sup>th</sup>: **WASH** Christmas/Holiday Party @ AB3ED
- January 10<sup>th</sup>: **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest
- February 22<sup>nd</sup>: **WASHFest 2009**



## WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

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

## October 16<sup>th</sup> WASH VE Exam Results

We had two candidates for last month's VE session, and both successfully became new Technicians!

**Congratulations to:**

- Dayne Crosay KB3RVH of Monessen
- John Miller KB3RVI of Whitehall!

VE's present included:

- Team Leader Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
- Ed Oelschlager N3ZNI
- Bob Timmins AB3ED
- Ron Notarius W3WN

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, The ARRL VEC announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15.

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VE teams may retain up to \$7 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams' out-of-pocket examination expenses; currently, VE teams keep \$6.

This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.



ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR announced at the beginning of November that Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, retired this year from the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has become an Assistant Director for the Atlantic Division.

Congratulations Riley, & welcome aboard!

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2009 Today! Membership Application on Page 13**

## Minutes, October 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

Larry K3VX, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:03 hours. There were 20 members and guests in attendance.

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

Committee reports:

**Treasurer (N3RDV):** Mark reported the club's account balances via e-mail.

**Secretary (N3FB):** No report.

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** The next VE session is a week from tonight; October 16, 2008; VEs are needed.

### Activities & Programs (AB3ED):

- For tonight's program, Dan KB3HVN, is presenting a video from last year's AMSAT symposium. Next month's topic will be a talk on antenna construction projects.
- We took a head count of members that plan to attend the club's Christmas Party and have not yet told Carol KB3GMN, that they are doing so. That count was six.

**Public Service (N3RDV):** Dave N3IDH, reported that this past weekend was the SET Simulated Emergency Test. Both Washington and Greene Counties had some good participation. Thanks to everybody that helped out. There is a parade scheduled for Veterans Day and also a Christmas Parade coming up that will need communications and there is a need for between 100 & 150 hams to communicate for the upcoming Pittsburgh Marathon in May.

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

**Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB):** Repairs made to the 2 meter link radio at the N3FB site. The Pittsburgh receiver is back on line from a temporary location on the roof of the remaining building. This is the return path antenna to Canonsburg, the receive antenna for this link is 500' above ground. On the 2 meter side of things, with Pete now out of town, Steve suggested that we use N3SH as the call sign for the 146.955 machine and WA3SH as the call sign for the 442.55 machine.

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** Net control stations are needed.

**Ways and Means (KB3GMN):** No report.

**Contests (K3VX):** Report on the club's plans for the operations for the PA QSO party. Dave N3IDH, discussed WACOM's plans and his own plans for the party.

**Newsletter (W3WN):** It went out!

**President's Report (K3VX):** No Report.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** N3HKQ will have a hamfest report next month.

**Nominations** are open for President and Vice-President Secretary.

The floor was opened for nominations for **President**.

**K3VX** was nominated by W3WN, W3LE seconded.

A motion to close the nominations for president was made by W3WN and seconded by W3LE it was voted on and passed.

The floor was opened for nominations for **Vice-President/Secretary**.

**AB3ED** was nominated by W3WN.

A motion to close the nominations for president was made by N3HKQ and seconded by N3IDH. The motion was voted on and passed.

### Good of the Order:

- Ron W3WN, told us that PA PRB-1 bill, Act 88, had passed and was signed by the governor the night of the meeting. The text of the bill will be in the next newsletter.
- Larry K3VX, has a power supply for sale from an estate that is donating a percentage of the proceeds to the club.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by W3WN, and seconded by N3IDH. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 19:50.

## WASH Spotlight: KB3ERQ

Ben KB3ERQ and his new son Seth, taking a bottle break during the Pa QSO Party, while operating at W3WN M/S. (At least, Seth got a bottle, Ben probably could have used one!)

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	KB3HVN	N3DFK	W3LE	WASH FL	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3KOT	N3FB	W3RJM	KA3UPY	
AC4KU	KB3KQY	N3PPF	W3RWS	W4ZE	
AD3AA	KB3NSG	N3HKQ	W3SRL	WASH GA	
AE3DL	KB3NVL	N3KFD	W3VFA	K30L	K3EED
K3AIR	KB3NVM	N3MJP	W3WH	KB3IJX	(George)
K3HCR	KB3ORR	N3PN	W3WN	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3LGM	KB3PSB	N3QMV	W4ZE	NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3SGT	KB3QHC	N3RDV	WA3JPP	WASH OH	N3FZ
K3VX	KC4WTT	N3RNX	WA3NB	N8DPW	N3KEH
K3WJL	KE7FD	N3SBF	W3RVD	WASH TN	N3OBD
KA3TWI	KE8RN	N3TIR	WA4ONC	KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3FNM	NØVLR	N3XI	WB3CAI	N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3GMN	N1NCZ	N3ZEL	WB4GCS	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMP	N2QIV	N3ZK	W03Z	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3GMU	N3AWF	N3ZNI	Jane Wagner	Jane Wagner	
KB3GUZ	N3BPB	NU3S	Thomas L.	WASH VI	
KB3HFP	N3CZZ	W3JJC	Tulley	NP2JF	

Through October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2008/9 WASH Meeting Night Program Topics

& Other Significant Club Events on the 2008-09 Calendar — Subject to Change

November 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	WACOM Hamfest	<a href="http://wacomarc.org">http://wacomarc.org</a>
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting: Antenna Workshop	Larry Comden K3VX & Randy George N3ZK
November 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL International EME Competition	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 15 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	SWPA Packet Group Meeting, Blue Flame Restaurant, Rt. 51	<a href="http://swppg.zelie.com">http://swppg.zelie.com</a> geno570@verizon.net
November 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX CW Contest	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
December 5 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting: Boat Anchors & Antique Radios	<i>To Be Announced</i>
December 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH Christmas / Holiday Party</b>	Bob Timmins AB3ED's World Studios in Pleasant Hills
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> 2 Meter Simplex Contest	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave	PSK-31 7—11 PM
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave	CW 7—11 PM
February 21 <sup>st</sup> / 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>WASHFest</i> 2009	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	MARCFest 2009	<a href="http://www.w3csl.org">http://www.w3csl.org</a>
March 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave	SSB 7—11 PM
March 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WPX SSB Contest	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.tworiversarc.com">http://www.tworiversarc.com</a>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pittsburgh Marathon	<a href="http://www.marathon.central.org">http://www.marathon.central.org</a>
May 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Dayton Hamvention	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org">http://www.hamvention.org</a>
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>



# *State Senate Bill 884 (Act 88) Final Text*

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 PRIOR PRINTER'S NOS. 1076, 2242, 2383 PRINTER'S NO. 2433  
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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 SENATE BILL No. 884 Session of 2007  
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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, ROBBINS, COSTA, FONTANA, BROWNE, STOUT, REGOLA AND DINNIMAN,  
 JUNE 1, 2007, AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008  
 -----

## AN ACT

Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, restricting municipalities from regulating amateur radio service communications.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

**Section 1.** Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated 7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 302. Restriction on municipal regulation of amateur radio service communications.

- (a) General rule. — A municipality that adopts an ordinance, regulation or plan or takes any other action involving the placement, screening or height of antennas or antenna support structures shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications, and shall impose only the minimum regulations necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the municipality.
- (b) Reasonable accommodations. — A municipality may impose necessary regulations to ensure the safety of amateur radio antenna structures, but must reasonably accommodate amateur service communications. No ordinance, regulation, plan or any other action shall restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 65 feet above ground level.
- (c) Construction. — The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit a municipality from taking action to protect or preserve a historic, a historical or an architectural district that is established by the municipality or pursuant to Federal or State law.
- (d) Definition — As used in this section, the term “Legitimate Purposes” shall include a clearly defined health, safety or aesthetic objective of a Municipality.

**Section 2.** Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

## *Hearing on W3YNI's Second Tower Permit November 13<sup>th</sup>*

Penn Township has scheduled a hearing on the neighbor's appeal of Chuck Mills W3YNI's second tower permit for Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, in Harrison City (about 30 minutes from the Ft. Pitt Tunnels).

Chuck is under instructions from his attorney, Mike Lazaroff K3AIR, not to publicly discuss the matter until after the hearing, so little other information is available. However, any area Amateur Radio operator who can attend the meeting to lend moral (or other) support to Chuck can contact him at [w3yni1@gmail.com](mailto:w3yni1@gmail.com) for more directions and for more information.

As was reported last month, Chuck's second permit was granted after he had addressed the concerns brought up during hearings on his first permit, & that the technicality over “screening,” that was cited as the reason that the first permit was rescinded, was also addressed and resolved. The second permit was applied for and granted prior to the passage of Act 88, so it is not known what effect (if any) that the new law will have on this permit or it's appeal process.

Ever wonder why the FCC set the maximum output power for an HF amplifier in the Amateur Service to 1.5 kW PEP?

It's may be because of “Mickey Mouse” — J. William “Bill” Miller K4MM (SK 2000), according to a biographical article on him (by Dick Rucker KM4ML) on the QCWA web site:

When he passed away, Bill still had in his shack a 1-kW linear amplifier that was the prototype for an all-transistor RF amplifier from Transworld built for the amateur market. This was built to his specifications so he could show it at the Dayton Hamvention.

“FCC's Laurel, MD, facility was responsible for ensuring it met their requirements. Two nights before I was to leave for Dayton, the FCC boys called me up to tell me that it had passed all their tests, including one that 50 watts of drive should not produce more than 1 kilowatt of output power. They were now curious what would happen if they drove it harder, and asked if they could try that. I said 'sure,' as long it was operated SSB and not continuously. They found that with 100 watts drive, the amplifier would produce 1,440 watts. That's how the FCC established the regulatory limit of 1,500 watts PEP that we amateurs live by today.”

[Bill was born in Crafton PA in 1920, and was originally licensed as W8SWQ in 1939]

The full article can be found at <http://www.qcwa.org/k4mm-sk.htm>



# Field Day 2008 Results for WPA

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Call	Score	QSOs	Pwr Mult	GOTA Call	# Ops	Club
W3CG	5866	1A 1702	2		WPA 11	Union City Wireless Assn
W3LWW	380	1A 42	2		WPA 13	Foothills ARC
W3VI	620	1AC 104	2		WPA 12	Huntingdon Co ARC
W3RP (+K8ARY)	354	1B2 127	2		WPA 2	
K3ZYK	196	1B2 13	2		WPA 2	
KA3KSP	144	1C 22	2		WPA 1	
AA3II	412	1D 103	2		WPA 1	
K3GW	344	1D 147	1		WPA 1	
K3VED	320	1D 160	2		WPA 1	
WA3YMM	120	1D 35	2		WPA 1	
W8LEV	102	1D 26	2		WPA 1	
N3WDZ	60	1D 10	1		WPA 1	
W3AG	2290	1E 207	5		WPA 1	
WD8PNL	406	1E 116	2		WPA 2	
N3YDF	265	1E 23	5		WPA 1	
WB0IWG	202	1E 76	2		WPA 1	
WU3U	4780	2A 1166	2		WPA 4	Mifflin Co ARC
W3MIE	3014	2A 710	2		WPA 30	Crawford ARA
K3WWA	1844	2A 546	2		WPA 25	Wattsburg Wireless Assn
KB3GDG	1506	2A 467	2		WPA 5	Thick Mountain Group
K3SMT	990	2A 260	2		WPA 15	Somerset Co ARC
W3VV	706	2A 68	2	KB3POF	WPA 4	McKean Co ARC
K3DNA	576	2A 96	2		WPA 9	JVARC
N3QC	1368	2F 143	2		WPA 8	Quad Co ARC
W3CSL	3862	3A 1026	2	W3EMV	WPA 34	Monessen ARC
WA3COM	3550	3A 926	2	KC3HW	WPA 41	Washington Amateur Comm
N3SBF	2122	3A 541	2		WPA 4	
WX3SKY	1814	3A 436	2	KB3NUQ	WPA 30	Skyview RS
W3WPA	1480	3A 235	2	K3W	WPA 8	North Hills AR Contest Soc
W3EXW	1450	3A 132	2		WPA 40	North Hills ARC
W3ACH	1396	3A 250	2	W3SML	WPA 53	Cumberland Valley ARC
W3YXE	1194	3A 209	2		WPA 12	RA of Corry
K3MJW	6788	3E 1841	2		WPA 40	Skyview RS
W3KWH	3400	3E 841	2		WPA 19	Steel City ARC
W3YA	3182	3E 2632	1		WPA 6	
N3PC	1494	3F 402	2		WPA 12	Headwater ARC
W3GV	4684	4A 1332	2		WPA 20	RA of Erie
N3SH	4134	4A 1194	2		WPA 25	Wireless Association of South Hills
AC3J	2580	4A 760	2		WPA 32	Triple A ARA
W3ZIC	2250	4A 356	2		WPA 25	Fort Venango Mike & Key Club
W3TCW	1728	4A 311	2		WPA 18	Tri-County CW ARC
W3UDX	4068	5A 1104	2	AA3YW	WPA 12	Butler Co. ARA
N3NIA	1558	5A 329	2		WPA 17	Elk Co. ARA
W3OC	5468	6A 1287	2		WPA 45	Two Rivers ARC
K3PSG	2684	6A 674	2		WPA 30	Butler Co. Amateur Radio Public Service Group

All Mode Example – What do you know about band conditions? How do you find out? When should you change bands? How quickly can you change? Some contests forbid signals on more than one band while others encourage it.

Happy contesting. See you on the air

**Continued  
from Page 1**

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

# W3WN M/S, QRV, 2008 Pa QSO Party

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2008 Ron Notarius W3WN



As you can see, the W3WN shack is still under construction, but operational w/2 Stations!



# Announcing the Ninth Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Ninth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Everyone who participated in it the last eight years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 10<sup>th</sup>!

**Date & Times:** Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 7 to 11 PM EST.  
(That's January 11<sup>th</sup> 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

## Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

**Band, Mode & Frequencies:** The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.520 to 147.580 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 is **not** to be used. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for SSB QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

**Power Limit:** Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

**Exchange** : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of **WASH** or a Club Station.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

**Example 1:** "N3ZCG from N3 ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

**Example 2:** "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

**Example 3:** "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

**Contacts** : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

**Disqualification:** Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

**Scoring:** Each Contact, non-**WASH** Member: 1 point

**WASH** Member: 2 points

(\*) Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes

Power: Stations running 10 watts or less: 2

Stations running over 10 watts: 1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

(\*) "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada or equivalent to **bona-fide** Amateur

Radio Clubs. For example, they include **N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W8XK, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible. [In other words, you can't just claim to be a "club" and pick a call, or use the call of a club member; the call must be assigned as a club call]

**After the Contest:** Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the **WASH** web site, [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org), no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Submit Log Sheets:** Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest  
c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI  
60 Carl Avenue B2  
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2009** on February 21<sup>st</sup>

## Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

After the first year of the contest, we found that the limited number of frequencies suggested in the rules were insufficient for the activity level. In subsequent years, we permitted use of any recognized simplex frequency, as per the ARRL recommended guidelines published in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory and other sources, above 146.520 MHz.

You will note that many of these frequencies are listed as potential dual use, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

We have been notified that the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC) has issued their own "local" band plan for the 2 meter band, and has elected to withdraw most or all of these dual-use or optional-use frequencies in favor of their being assigned to FM repeaters, primarily those on 1 MHz splits. Although we have not heard of interference problems with any repeater (with ONE exception – the contest participant was notified of interference and immediately moved), good amateur practice requires us to take note of the situation and the potential for interference problems in some parts of Western Pennsylvania where these repeaters exist.

The following list of recommended frequencies are recognized as standard simplex channels and should not suffer from co-channel problems with any existing repeaters:

146.535 MHz	147.525 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.540 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.580 MHz	147.570 MHz
146.595 MHz	

The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, may not be used. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

To be clear, we have no objection to contest participants operating on additional recognized FM "optional" simplex frequencies above 146.520 MHz. Participants who do so run the risk of potential interference with repeaters sharing these frequencies, and therefore do so at their own risk. Again, as per the rules of the contest, if you operate on these frequencies and are notified of actual interference, please exercise good amateur practice and QSY.

We also recognize that the WPRC may continue to be less than happy with this stance. We point out to them that the amateur spectrum is a shared resource. And frankly, if push came to shove, the legality of their "withdrawing" of the frequencies from use by the general amateur population of WPA might be an interesting question before the FCC. (To say nothing of the fact that this change in band plan is probably something most WPA amateurs are unaware of, but that's another story).

Bottom line: Enjoy the contest, but do so responsibly.



# N3ZK Results from Venango County, 2008 Pa QSO Party

Randy George N3ZK

What can I say; conditions just were not on our side this weekend. However, the Food was!! The N3ZK Team descends upon my parent's house each year for the Pennsylvania QSO Party. With my mom and sister cooking up a storm, (literally, we had more food in a 48 hour period, I think all of us will be stuffed for a week) we were well fueled for a long weekend.

NØVLR and I arrived on Thursday evening and parked the Tower Trailer in its place. Friday, he and I, along with my mom, put up the 6 antennas needed to help us get the job done. We raised the tower and hoisted up the long, long runs of antennas, ran coax and prepared our equipment for the contest. Friday night the rest of the team arrived, we all had NØVLR's 4 alarm chili, checked into the Net and went to bed.

Saturday was the hardest of the two days. With us setup up on the back porch in 70 plus degree weather, we were determined to break our score from last year. 40 was long, 20 was kind of there, but 80 and 160 helped us through the mud. Who ordered the Geomagnetic storm anyways? Due to the most of the day magnetic storm, Paul, KB3KOT was unable to operate CW as the conditions were horrible.

After Paul, KB3KOT went home Saturday evening, I had to stick on my CW hat and attempt CW in the unusual conditions. I think I did well though, I had 54 CW QSO's on Saturday and 86 CW QSO's on Sunday. N3FB and NØVLR did a great job on finding the counties and getting those multipliers. Thanks go out to Frank, N3FB for helping us get Forest and Crawford counties Sunday morning!!

Sunday out of the blue I heard WA3COM come back to me on 2 meter simplex from Washington County. What a Haul!! His audio was OFF the meter!! That was the longest 2 meter simplex contact I've ever made.

Recap: The food was awesome, as always we have a great time operating; we didn't have any issues with setup or take down. Despite the bad conditions, I was sick ALL weekend with that "cold" that's been going around, we had a great time!! I had to keep switching my efforts to CW when I could talk anymore. At least I could still stuff my face, guzzle down margaritas and do CW at the same time. I think NØVLR's Margaritas are a special "Get Better Elixir" as my cold went from worst to pretty good in just under 3 days. All that's missing is my voice.

We came out with 4 shy of 67 Counties. Better luck next year. We missed the following counties:

Bedford Clearfield Clinton Fulton

Thanks to W3OK for their extreme efforts during the contest!! Thanks again to my team; they did a fantastic job again this year.

We look forward to next year!

A Brief look of the menu:

Delmonico Steaks	Ham	KB3GMU's Famous Cookie's	Main Ops:
Homemade French Fries	NØVLR's Famous Margaritas	Homemade pepperoni Balls	N3ZK - SSB/CW
NØVLR's Famous Margaritas	Bacon	Did I forget to mention NØVLR's	KB3KOT - CW
Corn on the Cob	Homemade Sticky Buns	Famous Margaritas?	NØVLR - SSB
Fried Onion Blossoms	Kuka (Homemade German Coffee	And much, much more!!!!	N3FB - SSB
Chicken Divan	Cake)		
NØVLR's Famous Margaritas	NØVLR's Famous Margaritas	<u>Results:</u>	
Hot Chicken on a stick	Brownies	69,928 points	Kevin, N3HKQ and his wife look
NØVLR's Chili	Cupcakes	152 CW Q's	another stroll to my moms this
Corn Bread	NØVLR's Famous Margaritas	363 SSB Q's	year to visit
NØVLR's Famous Margaritas	Apple/Rhubarb/Cranberry Pie	63 Counties	us during PAQSO. Thanks again
Veggie Pizza	Peach Pie	49 Sections	Kevin for stopping by!!
Eggs	NØVLR's Famous Margaritas	112 Multipliers	

## ARRL 2008 Frequency Measuring Test Set

The 2008 ARRL Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) will take place Wednesday evening, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 PM EST (0245 UTC November 13<sup>th</sup>)

It will replace the W1AW phone bulletin scheduled at this time. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, recommends that those planning to participate listen to W1AW's transmissions prior to the event to determine which band--or bands--will be best for measurement purposes.

The FMT will start with a general QST call from W1AW at exactly 0245 UTC, transmitted simultaneously on two amateur frequencies. The frequencies are 3597.5 and 7095 kHz.

All identification and instructions will be transmitted in CW. The test will begin with an identification of the band on which the tones are to be transmitted (NOW 80 METERS). The tones to be used will be between 500 Hz and 2 kHz. The two tones will be transmitted in an alternating sequence of 10 seconds of each tone. Each tone will be transmitted three times for a total of 1 minute of continuous transmission on each band.

W1AW will then ID and identify the next band (QST DE W1AW 40 METERS) and the tone sequence will be repeated on the next band. The test will last for a period of approximately 15 minutes total and will end with a series of Vs followed by station identification. W1AW will identify before, during and after the transmissions.

Your report should be submitted via the FMT Report form on the W1AW FMT Web site. Along with your call sign and e-mail address, enter your most accurate measurement on each band and indicate whether you measured the W1AW or WA6ZTY signal (or both). There will be a window to list your equipment, describe the method you used to make the measurements and enter any Soapbox comments.

W1AW will post on the FMT web site the transmitted frequencies following the test. This will allow participants to quickly determine the accuracy of their equipment and methods.

An article, "Frequency Measuring Test 2008," by Ward Silver, NØAX, in the November 2008 QST on page 61 and also available on the ARRL Web site at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/08W1AWfmt.pdf>, details the 2008 FMT.

Additional information about the FMT--including a list of reference articles and updates to test schedules--is on the W1AW Frequency Measuring Test Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt>.



## DX Summit Alert

OH8X Team

The Old OH2AQ DX Summit Goes Offline 19 November 2008 at 1000 UTC

The new DX Summit website at <http://www.dxsummit.fi/> debuted on 23 May 2008. The site has been redeveloped from the ground up and uses the latest technology available. The new DX Summit has been ramping up steadily and today the number of hits is approaching 1 million a day. In addition to providing the same functionality as the old DX Summit, the new platform offers the necessary flexibility to easily add new features which are currently on the drawing board.

The old DX Summit homepage at <http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/> redirects users to the new DX Summit website. However, all the old DX Summit data pages are still online but the trend for daily hits has decreased, as we expected. The number still remains high but the time has come to shut down the old DX Summit machine which may cause your software to stop working.

To try and maintain compatibility with older software which may no longer be supported, the new DX Summit includes a series of DX spot webpages which are 100% HTML compatible with the same pages on the old DX Summit. Simply changing the URLs in your software according to the information below should keep it working with the new DX Summit. If your software does not allow you to edit the URLs, please contact the author of your software and ask them to change the URLs according to the information below.

New URLs to change:

- Latest 25 DX spots <http://www.dxsummit.fi/text/dx25.html>
- Latest 1000 DX spots <http://www.dxsummit.fi/text/dx1000.html>
- Latest 10000 DX spots <http://www.dxsummit.fi/text/dx10000.html>

Software authors who wish to implement data exchange with the new DX Summit should visit <http://www.dxsummit.fi/technical.aspx> for information on data formats and URLs. If your software does not work with the new DX Summit, we encourage you to forward this information to the author of the software you are using.

We hope all software relying on the DX Summit can be successfully updated to work with the new DX Summit. We look forward to providing you with this valuable DX resource for many years to come!

## New DXCC Entities Soon?

Mike Greenway K4PI courtesy of the SEDXC Reflector

Over the past year, much discussion has been made about the possibility of new DXCC entities happening once the break-up/disbanding of the Netherlands Antilles takes effect on December 15th, 2008.

Recently, the President of European DX Foundation (EUDXF), Hans PB2T, who visited ARRL HQ in July and had a discussion about the DXCC status of Netherlands Antilles, feels that after December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, it looks like four new entities will be added to the DXCC list in the future (Curacao, Sint Maarten, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire).

[Editor's Note: Yes, that's five total... I suspect that the existing entity (Netherlands Antilles) will get renamed, and four will be added]

A report by Warwick Hughes states, "A large number of spotless days means that the following cycle is going to be late, and the later a cycle is, the weaker it will be."

This interesting report shows/compares graphic illustrations of the current SC23-SC24 transition period and other SC put together by David Archibald. To view this report, go to:

<http://www.warwickhughes.com/blog/?p=181#comment-20552>

## Silent Keys



Jack Whiteside WA3JDP, Owner of Whiteside Electronics, Penn Hills, October 5<sup>th</sup>

## DX News Briefs



3B8FQ's trip to St. Brandon Island has been delayed due to boat problems. The next trip is scheduled for 15 November, and he and his meteorological station maintenance team hope to be on it. As a result, he should be active as **3B7FQ** longer than originally thought. Rachid will be active on CW & SSB as time permits — OPDX

The F6KOP ARC will be QRV as **TS7C** with 25 operators from AF-073 8 to 19 January 2009. They will be training some newcomers to the "DX-pedition atmosphere" during this operation. They will be on all HF bands, CW, SSB, FM, SSTV, and multiple digital modes. They plan to have 6 to 7 stations on the air up to 24 hours per day each. QSL via F4EGD — F5NQL

DL1EFD will be QRV as **6V7N** 23 November—5 December, including the CQ WW DX contests. QSL via DL1EFD — OPDX

GØVJG will be somewhat active as **8Q7CQ** 1—15 June 2009. Operation will be limited as he will be **on his honeymoon!** QSL via G4FDI — OPDX

UY5LW will be QRV as **C91LW** 13 November—2 December. He will be QRV 160—10 meters on CW, SSB & Digital, including a CQWW DX CW stint; he may be QRV as **C8WW** during the contest. QSL via UY5LW

A team of 4 German ops will be QRV from **9K2HN** from 8—17 November, including the WAE RTTY contest. QSL via 9K2HN — NG3K

**J3/DL7CM** and **J3/DM2AYO** are active from Grenada through 25 November. QSL via home calls — NG3K

N6NO is now QRV from Easter Island (Isla de Pascua) as **CEØY/N6NO** through 16 November. He has special permission to operate on 30 meters and will focus on it. QSL via home call — 425 DX News

Look for G3YBY to be QRV from Brunei as **V9FKT** 9 to 21 November. This will be a "micro-DXpedition" primarily on 40—15 meters, 100 watts to verticals. QSL via G3YBY — F5NQL

**OPØOL** has been assigned to the Belgian Union of Radio Amateurs for use at a club station on Antarctica. ON5XX will be QRV from the Multinational Base Camp Patriot Hills 10 November—18 December. CW will be the preferred mode, SSB & digital if possible. Remember that this is a professional on a work assignment, not an experienced DX-pedition operator, and he will be QRV only when time, workload, and power are available. QSL via ON5XX, but cards will not be answered until after his return at the end of January — URE, VA3RJ

W5JON will be QRV as **J6/W5JON** from St. Lucia 3—11 March 2009, including the ARRL DX Contest. QSL via W5JON — N8OFS

Long time QSL Manager & QSL database resource Bob McCourt KI4RU became a Silent Key on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. He will be missed.

## QSL Routes

3DAØJK via WB6OJB — JA1HGY	E7HQ via E77E — PAØRDY
3V8SS via IZ8FVN — W4DN	EK6TA via DJØMCZ — K3LL
4W6R via EA4URE — W4NW	FW1W via JM1LJS — JA1HGY
5B4/RW9UP via UA9PC — UA9UAX	HB9/WQ7R via AI4U — JA1HGY
5K3T via HK3O — HK3O, AA5AM	HV5ØVR via IWØGPN — WA3FRP
5X1VB via UA4WHX — W2IRT	J5UAR via LZ17CM — WO2N
5WØHH via JM1LJS — JA1HGY	JW9DFA via LA9DFA — UA3FDX
6E4LM via XE2K — W4DN	K7A via K6HFA — EU7SA
6W/DK8YY via DH7WW — WO2N	KL7DX via AC7DX — BA4DW
7Q7VB via UA4WHX — W2IRT	MMØLON via DF1LON — UA3FDX
9G5MM via DL5XX — JA1HGY	OQ5M via ON5ZO — UA3FDX
9K2/SP4R via SP4GFG — JA1HGY	P49T via W3TEF — JA1HGY
9N7BCC via DK7YY — UA3FDX	R1FJT via UA4RC — BA4DW
9XØR via EA5RM — N6JV	SY8JZ via LZ17CM — WO2N
C31CT via EA3QS — JA1HGY	TL5A via PA3DMH — WO2N
C91R via CT1BXT — W4DN	TT8PK via F4EGS — WO2N
C91VB via UA4WHX — W2IRT	V44KAI via K2SB — GM4FAM
CYØAA via K8LEE — WO2N	VK9XHZ via EA4URE — PY7ZZ
D2NX via JM1CAX — W4DN	Y19WV via NI5DX — JA1HGY
E51KJE via JAØKJE — JA1HGY	YU8/OH2R via OH2BN — W3AWU

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



## WASH Classifieds

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

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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](mailto:Lazaroff@nauticom.net)

**Wanted** - Kenwood SO-1 TCXO. If you have one, please contact me!  
 Ron Telek W3LE [w3le@comcast.net](mailto:w3le@comcast.net)

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**

## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

On Monday, October 20, the ARRL filed a "Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization" with the FCC with respect to WE2XRH. According to the FCC, this experimental license — issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) — proposes to "test digital transmissions in 4.50-5.10 MHz, 7.10-7.60 MHz and 9.25-9.95 MHz for a terrestrial digital radio service to the citizens of Alaska." The League's protest was prompted by the certainty that high-power operation in the frequency range 7.10 to 7.30 MHz would cause unacceptable and harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service in this part of the 40-meter band, which is an exclusive amateur allocation in ITU Region 2 (North and South America).



On October 24, the FCC responded by issuing an amended license that redefined one of the station's frequency ranges to eliminate conflict with the Amateur Radio Service. The amended license narrows the range to 7.30 to 7.60 MHz and gives as the reason for the change, "operation in the band 7.1-7.3 MHz will cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio Service licensees."

"We are delighted that the FCC acted so promptly to correct this error and are pleased that the matter has been resolved," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

WE2XRH will be using a 20 kHz bandwidth digital emission at a transmitter output power of 100 kW and an ERP of 660 kW within a radius of 1500 kilometers of Delta Junction, Alaska. According to the amended license, the transmissions will take place in the frequency ranges 4.4 to 5.1 MHz, 7.3 to 7.6 MHz and 9.25 to 9.95 MHz

On Wednesday, October 22, the FCC notified the ARRL that they would immediately begin making direct contact with owners or trustees of approximately 40 repeaters. The US Air Force identified these repeaters earlier this year as contributors to the harmful interference affecting the Beale Air Force Base PAVE PAWS radar installation near Sacramento, California.

"ARRL understands that contact with individual amateurs will be made from the FCC's San Francisco office," said ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The owners of these newly identified repeaters will be provided the operating parameters determined by the Air Force engineering unit's testing to be necessary to mitigate the interference. The owners will be requested to meet signal strength limits as soon as possible. The ARRL Lab and staff are available to answer specific questions for the owners of these newly identified repeaters and to provide technical information to assist them in implementing the mitigation."

Henderson said that as the Amateur Radio Service is a secondary user on the 70 cm band, "It is important for amateurs to remember that it is 100 percent our responsibility to eliminate harmful interference to the primary user. While we realize that this is and will continue to be an ongoing process, this third round of mitigation should mean that each of the known repeaters in the affected area have been tested at least once. How the FCC will address approximately 50 repeaters previously identified as interference contributors — but which have not apparently completed the required modifications — still remains. Nor is it clear when a process by which new coordinations can be issued in the area might commence."

Henderson reminded amateurs that "It is important to remember that this isn't a one-time solution. The amateur community needs to remain aware of this problem and responsibly utilize the band in the future to avoid any large-scale problems such as those we have experienced in this situation."

ARRL has been notified that Comcast, one of the largest cable providers in the country, has been blocking e-mail traffic from one of the servers that processes messages for the [arrrl.net](http://arrrl.net) E-mail Forwarding Service. This has resulted in a disruption of service to more than 5500 ARRL members who have their [callsign@arrrl.net](mailto:callsign@arrrl.net) e-mail forwarded to a Comcast.net e-mail address.

According to ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley N1VXY, ARRL has been in contact with Comcast and has convinced them to remove the blockage. "Their actions have caused a significant backlog of messages which will take the next several hours to clear," Shelley said. "Unfortunately, messages that were bounced will need to be resent."

ARRL apologizes for any inconvenience.



Now in our *FOURTEENTH* big year!



# WASHfest 2009

*The South Hills Hamfest*

*Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



**(800) 545-8881**

Breakfast & Lunch provided  
by *JACK'S CATERING*  
of Peters Township

*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest*  
courtesy of *HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES*  
of Canonsburg, PA

## MAIN PRIZES — *You've Got to play to WIN!*

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: To Be Announced  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: To Be Announced  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: To Be Announced

### Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

**Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20**

**All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes**

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Kevin Smith N3HKQ at (724) 228-4153, Bill Hill W3WH at (724) 746-1776, or Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466  
E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tables WITH Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
**WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**  
111 Watson Drive  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1045

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application/Renewal for 2009



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

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

**1st Qtr**     **2nd Qtr**     **3rd Qtr**     **4th Qtr**  
**Jan-Mar**    **Apr-Jun**    **Jul-Sept**    **Oct-Dec**

- (F1) Full Membership:                      \$20.00              \$15.00              \$10.00              \$5.00
- (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:    \$10.00              \$7.50              \$5.00              \$2.50
- (A1) Associate Membership:                      \$10.00              \$7.50              \$5.00              \$2.50

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector
  - I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List
- [If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

ARRL Member?  Yes  No    Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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)

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues subject to change without notice

# Inside This Issue:

- Appeal Hearing on W3YNI's Permit November 13<sup>th</sup>!
- Text of Act 88!
- Rules, 2009 2 Meter Simplex Contest!
- You Did Send in Your Log for the Pa QSO Party, Didn't You?
- More Repeater Owners Contacted over PAVE PAWS!
- WACOM Hamfest Pictures!
- Do you use DX Summit?

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



## A Proud Prize Winner!

Ron Telek W3LE at the WACOM Hamfest  
Photo courtesy of and ©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



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

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