



# WASHRAG™

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DECEMBER 2008

N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills



## Happy Holidays!

On behalf of everyone involved (members and friends) of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**, the **WASHRag**, **WASHFest**, the [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org) and [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info) web sites, and all of the other Amateur Radio activities, projects, and organizations that we are all involved with (individually or collectively), we'd like to wish all of our readers and everyone else a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Good Winter Solstice, Happy Kwanza, Sparkly Sparkle Season... and a Happy New Year 2009 as well.

(And if you choose to celebrate something else at this time of year, we wish you well and a joyful event for that as well.)

*See you at the WASH 2 Meter Contest Next Month and at WASHFest 2009 in February!*

**K4ZDH Riley Hollingsworth is Coming to WASHFest 2009 — Page 3**

**Zoning Board Rules Unanimously in favor of Chuck Mills W3YNI — Page 6**

### Next Meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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

[There is no December 2008 Meeting](#) — We will instead have our annual Christmas/Holiday Gathering at Bob AB3ED's home on December 13<sup>th</sup> (see article in the column above)

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

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



This will be an Adults only event.

We have 24 members & spouses coming so far. We have a very nice menu worked out, 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!

If you weren't planning to join us, but, at the last minute to come, find yourself able to come, please call me or Bob for directions.

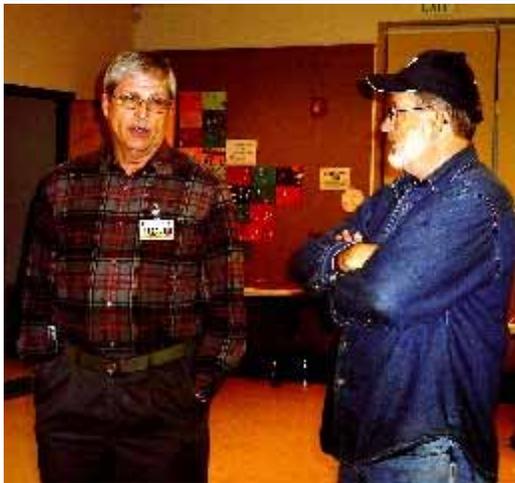


— 73 Carol Danko  
KB3GMN

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# "Seen" at the November Meeting



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## WASH 2009 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Larry Comden K3VX
VP / Secretary	Bob Timmins AB3ED
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 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  
 (tentative) Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
 Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

### [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info)

You may have noticed that the newsletter website at [www.washrag.info](http://www.washrag.info) looks a little different.

Due to circumstances outside of our control, the ISP hosting the web site had to be changed last month. The new ISP uses a different hosting platform, and some information didn't translate well between the two sites.

The newsletter site is being revamped, as time is available to our very talented but busy webmaster N3ZK, and we hope to have it back up and running very soon.

### Help Needed

At deadline, we received the following request from Bob KB3NUQ [kb3nuq@comcast.net](mailto:kb3nuq@comcast.net) over at the Skyview RS, in turn passing on a request from a Lisa Spahr:

Can you do me and the *Soldiers and Sailors Museum* a favor? I figure you have the network to put a call out for us. We need to find a WWII Crystal Set (I'm not even sure if I'm saying that right) for a 2 year loan or donation to the museum for a display on how people communicated with each other.

We're also looking for calling (QSL) cards (the postcards with call signs on them) from WWII. S&S is using my letters in two different exhibits in the coming weeks and months. One will be dedicated to WWII and another will be about communication during various wartimes. We're hoping to secure these items ASAP. Let me know if you have any leads. I think it would be great to build a solid relationship with S&S - and it would be great recognition for the radio community too!

If anyone can get me a lead on SWL/QSL cards from the WWII years and a lead on a crystal set from the same time period, please let me know ASAP so I can pass this information on to her.

If you can help, please contact Bob directly. Thanks!

November 29<sup>th</sup> was many things to many people... the post-Thanksgiving Saturday, the post-Black Friday Saturday, the pre-Hunting Season Saturday; regardless, it was time for **the WASH Breakfast Gang** to head for their monthly repast at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's group included WB4GCS, N3IDH, K3VX, W9UK, WA4DNC, AE3DL, AD3AA, N3HKQ, W3WH & W3WN. Hot cakes, coffee, scrambled eggs and such were joined with conversations on antenna design, tower climbing, the 2007 trip to VP2M, *Frostfest* in VA, *WASHFest 2009* plans, lack of Black Friday shoppers, household wiring, estate antennas, APRS, memories of the Heath DX-40, the "good old days" of the Novice, Beethoven's 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, K2ORS(SK), listening to AM DX while driving, Bill Cosby, working Singapore, baby names... and that's just part of what we heard from one end of the table!

You have one last chance to join us for breakfast in 2008. Don't pass up the chance to relax and chat with your fellow hams! Join us on Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup> for the next *WASH Breakfast*, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road (Route 88) n Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms. See you there!

**Fifteen years** for the club this year. Can you believe it?

**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**

Yes, that's an early date for the hamfest this year, because February 1<sup>st</sup> is a Sunday. (Where's a Leap Year when you really need one?) There's an unavoidable conflict with the ARRL DX CW contest, but we'll just have to make the best of it.

**Under the weather:** The folks at the Bethel Park Home Depot tell us that Mel WA3RVD hasn't been there for a time as he's undergoing some medical treatment. While we don't know the details, we're sorry to hear that Mel's ill and ask all club members to think of him in their prayers.

**WASHNet NCS Opening:** "I had an old member of the NCS list ask to take a break for awhile, so I need some one (or two) new members to add to the group. If you are interested but want to learn more first, email me or call my home after 6:00 PM at 724-258-4153 and I will explain what is required. Its really easy to do.

I need to get a new NCS schedule out for 2009 before Christmas so please don't hesitate to contact me." — *Kevin Smith N3HKQ NCS*

**Guess who's coming to WASHFest?** Thanks to ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR, we are going to have a very special guest at **WASHFest 2009**: Retired FCC Senior Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH!

We're still working out all the details, but we are looking forward to hosting Riley and making appropriate arrangements for his appearance with us. Please spread the word and let people know that if they ever wanted an opportunity to meet and talk with Riley, this is it!

**Dayton Hamvention® 2009:** Greg NB3C (formerly KQ3DX) has once again secured rooms at the University of Dayton for those planning on attending Hamvention from **WASH** and the **Steel City ARC** for this coming year. Although the price may have gone up a little bit, it's still one of the best bargains in town. As always, slots are filling up fast, so contact Greg at [kq3dx@verizon.net](mailto:kq3dx@verizon.net) if you are interested in joining us at the U of Dayton for Hamvention to work out the details.

### WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

12/07 – Dave N3DFK	12/28 – Hank KB3FNM
12/14 – Kevin N3HKQ	Alternates
12/21 – Bill W3WH	Dave N3IDH

ARRL

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

# Minutes, November 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

Larry K3VX, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:10 hours.

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

## Committee Reports:

**Treasurer:** N3RDV – Read and accepted.

**Secretary:** N3FB – no report

VE Report: N3ZEL Results of VE Tests – 2 candidates, both successful, KB3RVH (now a General) and KB3RVI (*both present as guests—hi!*)

**Activities & Programs:** AB3ED – December Program: Microwaves – the one in his kitchen. Will NOT be a regular meeting, but instead will be a Christmas Party at the world famous AB3ED studios – get directions from Bob at AB3ED@arrl.net. Carol KB3GMN is organizing, please let her know if you are coming. See her after the meeting. Ed N3ZNI moved that the club donate \$75 towards the party, second by Ron W3LE. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

**Public Service:** N3IDH & N3RDV – Jeff N3NHS came to talk about and recruit for the Pittsburgh Marathon 2009 – May 3<sup>rd</sup> (first Sunday in May) – need about 150 hams to work the event (course/mile marker stations, aid stations, shadows, vehicles, etc.) There is a web site (see brochure) and you can fill out the forms and sign up on-line. Don't forget to indicate what equipment (if any) that you can bring – most stations will require use of a 2 M HT. If you haven't done it before, don't worry, you'll be paired up with someone who has experience.

Since this is the first Marathon in 5 years, they are going to use it to showcase the city. There will be at least one meeting prior to the event to credential hams, answer questions and try to iron out problems.

(See article Page 5)

**Website:** N3ZK – no report

**Repeaters:** N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB—no report, but they're repeating

**FM Net:** N3HKQ – no report

**Ways and Means:** KB3GMN -- 50/50: Show me the money!

**Contests:** K3VX –

- ARRL Sweepstakes Phone 4PM Sat Nov 15 – 10PM Sun Nov 16; work WAS and WA-CAN in one weekend!
- CQWW CW Nov 29-30.
- ARRL 160 Meter the first weekend in December,
- ARRL 10 Meter the following weekend.
- WASH 2M Simplex in Jan See WASH Rag
- Pa QSO Party logs due in to NARC on or before Saturday.

**Quartermaster:** K3HCR – all in good shape.

**Newsletter:** W3WN – it's out.

**AMSAT:** N3HKQ (no report)

**Tower-Trailer:** N3ZK – (no report)

**President's Report:** K3VX

**Old Business:** Election of officers:

- Floor opened for nominations for President. No new nominations. Move to close; N3ZNI 2<sup>nd</sup> KB3GMN. Secretary cast 1 vote for K3VX. (applause)
- Floor opened for nominations for Vice President/Secretary. No new nominations. Move to close; N3ZNI 2<sup>nd</sup> KB3GMN. Secretary cast 1 vote for AB3ED. (applause)

## New Business:

Estate sale is going well. W3LE has bought the Kenwood TL-922 amp. Club's share of the proceeds is \$595 from the hamfest, net to the club about \$1100. AB3ED asked for an updated list to be sent out, Larry will take care of it.

**WASHFest 2009:** N3HKQ reports that based on the feedback he's received, we are making NO changes to the kitchen. Ron W3LE will take over the "test bench" for the hamfest since Pete N3RNX will be in NC come the hamfest.

**Good of the Order:** W3LE talked with Randy about the possibility of a tour of some of the microwave sites (near S Hills Village) for the January or February '09 meeting.

**Motion To Adjourn:** KB3GMN N3ZNI second. Adjourned at 7:40

**Program followed:** A Low Band Receiving Antenna courtesy of N3ZK and K3VX started at 19:50.

# WASH Spotlight: K3VX



Larry K3VX explaining the finer points of the receiving loop antenna's control box to an attentive audience during the November club meeting.

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 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	KB3HVN	N3DFK	W3LE	WASH FL	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3KOT	N3FB	W3RJM	KA3UPY	
AC4KU	KB3KQY	N3FPF	W3RWS	W4ZE	
AD3AA	KB3NSG	N3HKQ	W3SRL	WASH GA	
AE3DL	KB3NVL	N3KFD	W3VFA	K3OL	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

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, PA
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH 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>	WASHFest 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>
May 30 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup>	CQ WPX CW Contest	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>



## Amateur Radio Volunteers Needed!

Jeffrey Hutzleman N3NHS

After a five year hiatus, the Pittsburgh Marathon is back! The marathon's 20<sup>th</sup> running will take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Once again, we have been asked to help.

We will be providing communications vital to ensuring the safety both of those athletes running in the marathon, and of the many spectators. There are many positions around the 26.2 mile course that need to be covered, including mile markers, aid stations, buses and sweep vehicles, shadows for race officials, and others. To fully cover all of these positions, we will need over 150 volunteer amateur radio operators, including you!

If you're new to the hobby or have never participated in a public service event, please don't let that stop you from joining us. We have a variety of positions for new and experienced hams alike, and will provide you with the information and support you need. This is an excellent opportunity to gain the experience needed to help out during an emergency, all while having fun and doing a service to our community.

To register online, visit [marathon.central.org](http://marathon.central.org), click "Volunteer Now!", and fill out the form. You will receive your assignment and detailed instructions during the last week of April. There will also be a pre-race meeting the day before the marathon, at which we'll review what to expect on race day, answer any questions you have, and provide your T-shirt, hat, and marathon credentials.

I look forward to your participation!

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at (412) 401-8348 or [jhutz@cmu.edu](mailto:jhutz@cmu.edu).

## *Penn Township Zoning Hearing Board Votes 5-0 In Favor of Denying the Appeal of Tower Permit for W3YNI*

Following a hearing on a neighbor's appeal of Chuck Mills W3YNI's second tower permit on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, the Penn Township Zoning Hearing Board Voted 5—0 in denying the appeal and permitting Mr. Mills to retain his tower.

Two different reporters for Tribune Total Media newspapers wrote extremely similar articles, last month both stating that "a group of residents" had continued to oppose the permit for the tower. The articles can be found at [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s\\_598545.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s_598545.html) and <http://www.yourpenntrafford.com/penntraffordstar/article/zoning-hearing-board-again-considers-radio-tower-issue>. The article announcing the results also indicated that there were multiple neighbors opposing the tower [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s\\_602666.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribunereview/news/westmoreland/s_602666.html)

However, amateur radio operators who attended the meeting in support of Mr. Mills stated that only one neighbor, Mr. John & Mrs. Jill Ducar, testified in opposition to the permit at this hearing, as opposed to "5 or 6" at the hearing over the first permit. In fact, many neighbors spoke in favor of Mr. Mills and his tower, according to the articles, or signed letters of support. He also had supporting testimony from an engineer and the county RACES officer.

News reports stated that Mr. Ducar's primary complaint wais merely over the position of the tower. "[We are not contesting the presence of an antenna structure on the property, but rather its location and lack of screening from adjacent properties.](#)" He wants the tower moved further back in the yard, were existing trees would provide additional screening. However, Mr. Mills and his attorney, Mike Lazaroff K3AIR, pointed out that moving the tower at this point would cost \$4500 or more and would cause other long-term problems, making this unreasonable. Photographs of the property that were presented at the hearing indicated the tower is already screened to a great degree by existing trees.

Despite this public statement, however, during the hearing, audience members reported that they overheard Mrs. Ducar saying to other neighbors "[...we just want that tower GONE](#)". Unfortunately, Mr. Mills and Mr. Lazaroff were not made aware of these comments until after testimony in the hearing had closed, or they would have tried to get this on the record.

According to Mr. Lazaroff, the township solicitor noted that PRB-1 and the (then) soon to be enforced Act 88 require a good-faith negotiating effort between the amateur radio operator and the municipality. Mr. Mills & Mr. Lazaroff were able to document this to the satisfaction of the hearing board, and that they had been willing to (reasonably) compromise beyond what the letter of the law required.

One thing that is clear as that for several months, going back to the original permit and permit hearing, the Zoning Office had been willing to issue the permits to Mr. Mills. Once they were fully informed on their responsibilities under PRB-1, they have made good faith efforts and performed good faith negotiations to a conclusion favorable to Mr. Mills. While there was, at first, some opposition from the township itself, they acquiesced once the solicitors took a good, hard look at what the law said and what Mr. Mills' rights were.

It appears that the actions of only one or two neighbors were extending the process and causing additional expenses on both the township and on Mr. Mills. These neighbors may have been abusing the legal process by filing these frivolous actions trying to force the township to enforce everything in a very hair splitting, hyper-technical matter. Yet, while these neighbors argue about the precise location of the tower, almost down to the inch, regardless of the cost of moving the structure, there are counter-complaints that their hands are not clean, as these same neighbors have put up accessory use structures without permits, in areas of the property where they're clearly not allowed.

Mr. Ducar had no immediate comment pending a review of the decision. He will have 30 days to appeal the decision to the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas.

### *The Antenna Heaven*

Neo Chan BG7NYT courtesy of [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

Last Sunday (December 7<sup>th</sup> 2008), it was nice day. I gave a calling to my wife, she said that she would arrive to Shenzhen after 10:00 PM. So I have my own all of that day.

I turned on the radio FT-7800 and stood by here. Suddenly, I heard BH7OMU said that he would go to BH7PGA's home, to tested BH7PFH's Yagi antenna DIY by himself.

It's great!, 'BH7PGA This is BG7NYT, I wanted to join in, tell me how to go', I took a microphone and said to him.

BH7PGA told me BH7OKU also go, let me called to him.

BH7OKU and I went to BH7PGA's downstairs.

There were six hams in the parking area, what I can saw. They were BH7OKU, BH7PFH, BH7PGA, BH7OMU, BH7MZM and me (BG7NYT)

We went to 32F by elevator and then walk to the top of building together.

BH7PFH's Yagi antenna had 12 element, maybe I forgot it. It was surely a good antenna, I give it two thumbs up, I have never seen a bigger antenna after we had completed testing.

BH7PFH said that he was looking for an antenna factory on the internet and whole product was bargain. He asked us anybody want to go and see or not? All present assented. "Let's go!" PH7PGA said.

We had two cars belonged to BH7PGA and PH7PFH. We arrived our destination, was waiting for BH7OZG, and then we went go antenna factory together.

I was greatly touched by the BH7OKU, BH7PFH, BH7PGA, BH7OMU, BH7MZM and BH7OZG are zeal on the Amateur Radio. This was the first time I had been in factory. There were lots of sample antenna on the wall. and there was an antenna analysis instrument on the desk I saw.

BH7PFH said that he wanted to buy a Yagi array. Everyone they wanted to buy something except BH7OKU and me. BH7OKU still wanted to DIY the antenna by himself, I suggest him to make HB9CV antenna. My radio were dual band and I have a 8 el Yagi DIY by BG7PHA. so I hadn't bought anything.

We completed mission again, and everyone had a harvest.

Tim EI8IC has a great collection of the most comprehensive prefix maps on the Web; now available for free to download (yes, for free!). There are 34 new maps available separately or in a combined zipped archive.

EI8IC also has a unique IOTA Bearing List which has been updated with all the latest IOTA island numbers. You can create your own list of beam headings and distance in miles or kilometers to ALL of the IOTA island groups. He also has maps for CQ Zones, ITU Zones, ITU Regions, Grid Squares, ARRL Sections and much more. The maps can be found at <http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/index.html>

— Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin

# Up... Up... And... Bill Hill W3WH

Up up and not away, but over the tree goes the dayglow green tennis ball hauling fishing line behind it. Just about that quickly a wire antenna support begins to take shape.

For Larry K3VX and I the days of bows and arrows, slingshots, fishing rods, wrenches, rocks and weights of various descriptions are in the past when it comes to launching support lines for wire antennas. About a year and a half ago, actually just before Field Day 2007 Larry and I decided to buy a pneumatic antenna launcher that I'd seen reviewed on [eham.net](http://www.aham.net). It is available as a kit or as a finished product and there are a couple of models available.



If I'd been buying this myself I would have opted for the finished product due to my hands of stone but Larry is an excellent technician and builder so we got the kit and before we knew it we were in Mingo Park testing. The launcher consists of a PVC tube, just big enough to accommodate a standard tennis ball, an air tank and a fishing line reel. The first shot we made was without any fishing line attached and the ball must have gone 200 feet in the air! Wow we thought we may really have something here.

We first used the launcher at the 2007 Field Day. It worked like a charm and while we were at it Tippi Comden, WA3JPP, shot a video which has been on (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xC7u23Z15ug>) You Tube ever since and as of this writing it has been viewed 27,491 times. If you want to see it go to [You Tube](http://www.YouTube.com) and do a search for "Antenna Launcher". One recent day I was using the launcher at my QTH. When I hooked up the tennis ball to the fishing and placed the ball down the tube, I didn't realize that there was already a ball in there. When I pulled the trigger both balls shot out. The one that had no line on it has never been found. It really took off.



The launcher has been used at W3WN, K3SGT, N3FB, W3LE, N3SBF (North) and two Field Days. There may be others I've forgotten. While Larry, Richie N3SBF and I were at Eric's QTH to try and raise his dipole a bit higher, the fishing line broke on the first shot and the ball landed on his neighbor's slate roof with quite a bang. We got lucky since the neighbors weren't home at that moment. One of the reasons the ball landed with such a bang is that they are weighted with 23 pennies. Even though this makes the ball a bit heavy we still easily put the vertical portion of his new Inverted "L" up about 80 feet at N3DFK's QTH. At N3SBF (North) and at W3LE's house their antennas are nice and high in their available trees. If you have a wire antenna project in mind, please let Larry or me know about it and we'll see what we can do whenever the weather is decent.

By the way, please don't ask to borrow the launcher. It's potentially dangerous. Besides, Larry and I enjoy putting up antennas!



Photos of the antenna launcher in use are from N3SH 2007 Field Day captured from the YouTube video uploaded by Tippi Comden WA3JPP  
 Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2007, 2008, 2009 Tippi Comden WA3JPP



End of an Era:

## CQ Communications Acquires WorldRadio Magazine Last Print Issue to be January 2009

Hicksville, NY and Sacramento, CA, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 -- CQ Communications, Inc. has acquired *WorldRadio* magazine, CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA and *WorldRadio* Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, announced jointly today. CQ, based in Hicksville, New York, currently publishes *CQ Amateur Radio*, *CQ VHF* and *Popular Communications* magazines.

*WorldRadio*, based in Sacramento, California, has been published monthly since July, 1971, with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DXing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945.

Armond Noble, N6WR, Publisher of *WorldRadio*, said that at the age of 74 the time had come for him to retire. "I wanted to be sure that *WorldRadio* found a good home, and that our readers would continue to be served by an independent voice in amateur radio," Noble said.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said, "*WorldRadio* has filled an important niche in our hobby for nearly four decades. We welcome *WorldRadio's* readers to the CQ family, and we look forward to meeting their needs for many years to come."

Current plans call for *WorldRadio* to continue to be published online as part of the CQ family of magazines, with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. *WorldRadio* subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

# 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.

## Two Tales of RFI Gripes & Solutions Courtesy of the [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

A few days ago, my neighbors said that they could hear me all of a sudden on their "baby room" monitor. I was transmitting on 6 Meter USB @ 100 watts. They complained to me and said that I scared them due to the fact they actually thought someone was inside their house!

Being the good ham that I am, I was willing to meet them half way with a compromise. I told them that I wouldn't transmit during the evening hours so their child could sleep in peace.

Well, that offer wasn't good enough. The wife said, "well, we have our monitor on 24/7." She wasn't willing to budge at all. In her mind, it was okay to have her "radio equipment" on 24/7, with no regard for my radio operations. She could care less about my rights and legal use of the radio. I also pointed out that her baby room monitor was mandated by the FCC to accept certain levels of interference. I was within the law too.

So, they "hymed & hawed" and basically wanted me to stop transmitting on 6M. (Their baby monitor was on around 49.000 MHz +/-).

So, when they looked at me with a puppy-dog face, waiting for my response for ME to voluntarily give up 6M transmitting, I fought back.

I immediately said, "yeah, I can hear you guys in your room all the time!"

The wife looks at hubby in complete SHOCK and dismay, stating, "O.M.G!, WE GOTTA GET RID OF THAT THING!" About an hour later I fired up my scanner and no longer could I hear their baby room monitor transmitting! Likewise, they no longer can hear me and I didn't have to do squat to my station.

Case closed. They approached me with their problem and they successfully ended their own problem.

— 73, Tim Alsky AI6DX

When I was getting ready to get on HF I put up a G5RV in the back yard. A friend had a Heathkit receiver that he was going to lend me until I could afford a radio to get me on the air.

My neighbor came over and started to complain that I was interfering with his TV. Now remember at this time I still did not even have the receiver yet. I told him that it could not be me as I did not have a transmitter.

No Dice. It was me. So I told him to call Industry Canada and complain about me. He said no just take the antenna down and that it would take care of the problem. I said there was no problem as I was not transmitting. He went on to tell me how the antenna picks up all the signals in the world and amplifies them and retransmits them at higher power. Hmmmmm. Then would not the metal close line in his back yard do the same thing???

He went on to say that the close line is insulated due to the plastic covering and it could not pick up a signal.

I had a friend over after a few weeks, and this guy goes no were without his test equipment. Neighbor comes over and starts whining about interference again. My friend tells him he works for IC and can do some testing if he would like. He told him he could have the antennas down in about 30 minutes if he finds a problem. Neighbor is ecstatic! YES YES YES!!!!

So my buddy picks up his analyzer and an RFI tester and starts walking around the yard pointing them at my antennas. Of course there is nothing. He when into the neighbors yard, went over to the close line and turned on an MFJ signal generator. and starts picking up the noise.

Here's the problem. Your close line is transmitting a signal.. You will have to remove it or install a grounding system. He went on to explain this complicated system. Then told him if he did not remove or ground out the close line he would have to fine him.

Then to top things off, he asked him for his mailing address for the bill! Neighbor was shocked when he told him this service was over \$500 for a call out. He LET HIM OFF THE HOOK and told him he would not bill him if the close line problem was fixed by the next week.

He took the close line down that day. And guess what. His interference disappeared!

AMAZING!!!

Never heard him complain when I did start transmitting!!

— 73, Steve LeBlanc VE9SY

### Is Radio Earthbound?

Back in 1925, it was unclear to some if radio signals could travel out into space and an article on the subject was printed in the publication **Radio News**. In June 1958 **Popular Electronics** reprinted the original March 1925 Radio News article and that reprint has now been made available on the web. It can be seen at <http://blog.modernmechanix.com/2008/is-radio-earthbound/>

Southgate ARC News courtesy of [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

## CHU Canada to QSY on January 1<sup>st</sup>

Canadian time/frequency standard station CHU — a fixture for decades on 7335 kHz — will change frequency to 7850 kHz at 0000 UTC on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

The move comes as a result of the International Telecommunication Union's decision in 2007 to expand the 40-meter ham band in Europe and Africa (Region I) to 7000-7200 kHz. It was previously 7000-7100 kHz, with — as every 40-meter DXer knows — international broadcasting allocated from 7100-7300 kHz.

As part of the 40-meter expansion, the international broadcast band was shifted to 7200-7350 kHz. As broadcasters began relocating, CHU on 7335 began experiencing significant interference. Thus, officials at Canada's National Research Council, which operates CHU, decided to move the time/frequency standard station's transmissions to 7850 kHz as of the beginning of 2009.

The complete NRC announcement (English version) is online at [http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/common\\_files/stories/chu/communique\\_e.pdf](http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/common_files/stories/chu/communique_e.pdf).



## New Phase in Kosovo as of December 9<sup>th</sup>

Martti Laine OH2BH

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 — It was just a few days ago in the United Nations Security Council where the UN Secretary-General's fresh report on Kosovo highlighted the considerable progress made in Kosovo since its independence in February of this year. All Council members supported the decision by the Secretary-General to adapt the UN's role to this new, positive reality by accelerating the downsizing of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the transfer of rule of law authorities to the European Union's mission, EULEX as of December 9, 2008.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind that the Republic of Kosovo, as it is called in UN terms, is there to stay as it is recognized by fifty-three UN member states today. Even those European countries not recognizing Kosovo because of their own minorities, voted unanimously to let the EULEX take over the next phase of the new country's development work. This is also another historical event where, for the first time, the European Union is working together and with the United States on a peace settlement issue.



This same day also signifies a wonderful occasion to the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Martti Ahtisaari, who acted as the UN Special Envoy for Kosovo and whose "peace roadmap" is now in implementation. Mr. Ahtisaari has served as mediator in many complex negotiations in which there is no standard outcome. Kosovo's road to independence marks a unique case in which the only winners are the people of Kosovo. We all salute Mr. Ahtisaari for his mission under complicated circumstances and congratulate him on winning the Nobel Peace Prize which he will receive on this same day. Amateur Radio operators are grateful to Mr. Ahtisaari for his support of Amateur Radio Mission Goodwill Kosovo currently under implementation in Kosovo.

A special postage stamp is issued in Finland on December 10<sup>th</sup> in Mr. Ahtisaari's honor, and the next 1000 direct QSL envelopes released by OH2BH/OH2BN/OH2TA/OH2UA for YU8/OH2R, CN2B, CU2X, FJ/OH2AM, OHØX, OH8X, OJØB and TC4X will bear that stamp.

The IARU HST (High Speed Telegraphy) Competition 2009 will take place during Sept 2009 in Obzor, Bulgaria, a town on the Black Sea coast. If you're not familiar with the competition, full rules can be found at <http://www.hst2008.org/competition/rules.html>

In a nutshell, the competition includes copying random code groups, sending random code groups, RUFZ, and Morserunner.

At the moment, we have 3 potential participants - one in the under 16 category, one 40-49 and one 50+. Each team can have 2 participants per category, so there's room for more. Please contact me if you have any interest or questions.

— 73, Barry W2UP [w2up3@verizon.net](mailto:w2up3@verizon.net)



## DX News Briefs

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to **Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095)**, 12—26 February 2009 <http://www.kp5.us/>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on the Most Wanted list, kept by "DX Magazine." Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).



Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time. "We have arranged with USFWS to allow a shift change about half way through the DXpedition," Allphin told the ARRL. "This has allowed a number of hams on our waiting list an opportunity to participate in this DXpedition."

Johnson said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard to work areas of Asia and Europe. This and with our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come."

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of amateur activity on Desecheo is due to the USFWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The USFWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

The KP5 DXpedition team will assemble in Puerto Rico on Sunday, 8 February. They will spend the next few days training, preparing and staging the several tons of equipment for transport to the site and set out for Desecheo on 12 February. Allphin said that as soon as they land, two stations will be "immediately activated. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on 26 February." — ARRL Letter

SP9YI is now QRV from the Henryk Arctowski Station on King George Island (AN-010) with a new call sign, **HFØAPAS** for this years expedition. QSL via SP9YI — GM3ITN

NO2R will be returning to Sihanoukville [a.k.a. Kampong Som], Cambodia on 18 December. He plans to be QRV as **XU7ACY** on 160-10 meters, CW & SSB, emphasizing 160 & 80 meters. No return date at this point in time. QSL via W2EN — NG3K

## QSL Routes

3XD2Z via UA6JR — WA3FRP  
 3XM6JR via UA6JR — WA3FRP  
 4A3A via NN1N — W4DN  
 4U1UN via HB9BOU — UA3FDX  
 4W6R via EA4URE — N5ZM  
 5Z4/RW1AU via K5XK — W4DN  
 6E4LM via XE2K — W4DN  
 7Q7VB via UA4WHX — KQ3F  
 8Q7XR via MØDXR — JA1HGY  
 9L1X via I2YSB — W3AWU  
 9UØVB via UA4WHX — KQ3F  
 A25/DL7DF via DL7UFR — W5TFW  
 C6APR via K3IDX — W4DN  
 CN2DX via EA7FTR — N8DX  
 CN2R via W7EJ — JA1HGY  
 CP4BT via EA5KB — WO2N  
 CR2CQK via CT1CQK — KA2BZS  
 D4C via IZ4DPV — PAØWRS  
 D6ØVB via UA4WHX — KQ3F  
 EL2DX via K8SJP — W4DN  
 EY8MM via K1BV — W4DN  
 FK8HC via VK4FW — W4DN  
 FR1AN via NI5DX — N5ZM  
 FW8AA via JA8BMK — WO2N  
 J7OJ via KU9C — W4DN  
 KHØWW via JP1IOF — JA1HGY  
 OM8A via OM3RM — W4DN  
 OX3XR via OZ3PZ — JA1HGY  
 PZ5Z via OM2FY — JA1HGY  
 T22ZL via JA2ZL — JA1HGY  
 T88ZF via DK2ZF — N8DX  
 TX1A via LZ1JZ — WO2N  
 V63DX via JA7MHZ — W2IRT  
 V73DX via DK2ZF — N8DX  
 VI9NI via VK4FW — PY5EW  
 VK9CNC via VK2CCC — JA1HGY  
 XR9A via N2OO — WO2N  
 XW1B via E21EIC — GUØSUP  
 YJ8TZ via VK3TZ — K3LL  
 ZF1A via K6AM — WO2N

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)

## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

# FCC Asks for Ham's Assistance in Digital TV Conversion



Newington, CT., December 10<sup>th</sup> 2008 —Earlier this week, the ARRL received a request from the FCC asking that ARRL members to provide technical educational assistance to their communities concerning the FCC-mandated digital television (DTV) conversion scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the DTV conversion in their areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this, as local groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not. Each community is a little different, Pitts said, so plans carried out by the clubs will vary from community to community. Interested groups should contact their ARRL Section Manager.

Pitts stressed that hams should **not** make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations; the request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials. He commented: "As we all know, some folks just never get the message until too late. Materials for presentations, education and many other activities are available online. Beginning early January, FCC staff will contact Section Managers and leaders of interested clubs and, where possible, arrange to meet to share even more information, audio, visual and printed materials, as well as and training aids, with the clubs involved this effort. We know the time is short, but your aid in this now will be appreciated."

In early January, Pitts said that the FCC will ask Section Managers for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. The FCC staff will then make contact with the groups, learn their plans and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials groups may need in this effort. Materials also can be downloaded from the DTV Conversion Web site. FCC regional staff members may even come and visit with larger groups to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

"I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions," said George Dillon, FCC Deputy Bureau Chief for Field Operations. "The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow us to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband. Our goal is to engage the amateur community on a cooperative basis to help with the DTV outreach and to educate consumers."

Dillon continued that local Amateur Radio clubs might consider offering technical advice to consumers via telephone to those consumers who may encounter difficulty with the installation and setting up of their converter box. "Any assistance...will greatly help in the efforts of the FCC to ensure a smooth transition to DTV on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009."

Pitts advises interested groups to keep in mind that they are to provide technical educational help only: "At no time should the hams enter someone else's home or install equipment. They should not broker or sell conversion boxes in any way. Clubs can provide such things as a call-in telephone number for technical help, make presentations at meetings, do demonstrations at malls or give talks to other groups — whatever works in their community."

## Silent Keys



Gorman Johnston Jr. N3YQY, Emsworth, 80, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

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**

Special Guest: Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH  
Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR  
DXCC Card Checker Mike Lazaroff K3AIR

*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: Yaesu FT-897D HF/6 M/2 M/70 cm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: ICOM IC-92AD 2 M/70 cm D-STAR
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: LDG Z-100 HF .1—125 W Autotuner

### 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

Breakfast & Lunch provided  
by JACK'S CATERING  
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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  $\downarrow$ )

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Members Only:

I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

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

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

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

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

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

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

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

Dues subject to change without notice

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- WACOM Hamfest Pictures!



***Now THAT'S a Loop!***

Ron Telek W3LE at the WACOM Hamfest  
Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2008 Ron Notarius  
W3WN

## The WASHRag

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Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor  
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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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