



2 Meter Simplex Time!

The [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS](http://www.n3sh.org) wishes to announce our 9th Annual 2 Meter Simplex Contest, to be held on Saturday evening, January 10th, 2009 from 7 PM until 11 PM (EST).

Go to http://n3sh.org/wash_2m_contest_2009.htm for all the information needed to participate. (Complete rules are on Page 8 of this newsletter)

This is not a high powered contest but more of a fun contest and while most of the activity is FM, there is a growing number of SSB and CW only operators who participate.

This is a great contest for those of you who participate in the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes on January 17th and 18th to check your stations out.

Please keep in mind that any club station that participates is worth 3 points, any contact with a [WASH](http://www.n3sh.org) member is worth 2 points and contacts with non-club or non-[WASH](http://www.n3sh.org) members is worth 1 point.

Finally, anyone submitting a log (even one QSO is works!) will receive a free prize ticket to [WASHFest 2009](http://www.n3sh.org), our 14th annual South Hills HamfestTM, to be held on Sunday, February 22nd, 2009 at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall.



K3VX adjusting N3SH Mobile in the wind in Rostraver during the 2006 WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest

We encourage everyone to take a few hours next Saturday evening to have a little wintertime fun on two meters!

Next Meeting: January 8th, 2009

The next monthly meeting of the [WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.](http://www.n3sh.org) will be Thursday, January 8th, at the [Peters Township Library](http://www.n3sh.org), 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics for the evening include final preparations for the 2 Meter Simplex Contest and for [WASHFest 2009](http://www.n3sh.org).

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

President's Letter

Two big club events in the near future

On January 10th [WASH](http://www.n3sh.org) will sponsor the umpteenth running of our 2 Meter Simplex Contest.

The rules are on the [WASH](http://www.n3sh.org) web site. I intend to activate N3SH on as many as 5 Zip codes (the multiplier in this contest) on FM, SSB and CW. I hope other mobiles will get involved (N3ZK, are you reading?). No route planned as yet but you can bet they'll all be on ridge tops. CW speeds will be modest so don't be afraid to call N3SH on all 3 modes. Working any club station counts 3 points on each mode and from each Zip Code.



On February 22nd [WASH](http://www.n3sh.org) presents the 14th annual South Hills Hamfest, [WASHFest 2009](http://www.n3sh.org), at the Castle Shannon VFD's Memorial Hall. Kevin N3HKQ (overall organization) and Carol KB3GMN (table sales) have done a great job preparing for this event.

Now if the weather cooperates.....

Happy New Year and...

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

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“Seen” at the Christmas/Holiday Party



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...and thanks Dave N3IDH for loan of your camera!

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

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test January 15th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 15th, 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@comcast.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 16th, 2009
 Thursday, July 16th, 2009
 Thursday, October 15th, 2009
 Thursday, January 21st, 2010
 (tentative)

December 27th, the last Saturday of the year, was a time to reflect on the past year, the Christmas gelt, and for the **WASH Breakfast Gang** to gather again at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's group included W3WH, K3VX, W3VFA, K3HCR, KB3GMN, K3SGT & Barb, N3HKQ, W3SRL, N3BPB & Debbie, and W3WN. Hot coffee abounded around morning conversations including hunting, 3 handing soldering, dripping oil, muzzle loading, being out of town, **WASHFest 2009** plans, the upcoming 2 meter and Breezeshooter's contests, the Steeler's, vertical wire, dry sprinkler system, tennis ball launcher, driving a school bus, news from Pete N3RNX/4 in North Carolina (he's bought a house!), cruising from NYC to Casablanca and back, Seattle weather, buying a K-3, "do you know the way to San Jose?", and SGC tuners... and you can only imagine what the other end of the table was talking about.

Make it your News Year's Resolution to join us in 2009. The next gathering will be on Saturday, January 31st 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!

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

- January 10th: **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest**. Rules and forms now at http://n3sh.org/wash_2m_contest_2009.htm
- February 22nd: **WASHFest 2009**. Yes, that's an early date for the hamfest this year, because February 1st 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.

Ah, guess who's not coming to WASHFest? We learned right after New Years that due to an "unexpected and unavoidable change in schedule," Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH will not be able to make **WASHFest 2009** after all. (Of course, this happens just after the flyers go out in the mail... Murphy's Law at work again!)

While we're all disappointed at this, we are hoping to have Riley as our guest at **WASHFest 2010** or possibly at another time during the year. please don't hesitate to contact me." — *Kevin Smith N3HKQ NCS*

Dayton Hamvention® 2009: Greg NB3C (ex - 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 if you are interested in joining us at the U of Dayton for Hamvention to work out the details.

K3TKJ has retired. He is in the process of transferring the www.qsl.net, www.qth.net and dx.qsl.net servers and related services (web pages, email reflectors, and so on) to KA9FOX, owner of www.qth.com. Updates and more info on the change can be found at www.qsl.net

www.washrag.info

You may have noticed that the newsletter website at www.washrag.info looks a little different.

Due to circumstances outside of our control, the ISP hosting the web site had to be changed in November. The new ISP uses a different hosting platform, and most of the 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.

In the mean time, recent issues of the newsletter are available on the club website.

WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

01/04 — Dave N3IDH	04/19 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
01/11 — Bob AB3ED	04/26 — Dave N3IDH
01/18 — Frank N3FB	05/03 — Bob AB3ED
01/25 — Dave N3DFK	05/10 — Frank N3FB
02/01 — Kevin N3HKQ	05/17 — Dave N3DFK
02/08 — Bill W3WH	05/24 — Kevin N3HKQ
02/15 — Harold K3HCR	05/31 — Special Guest
02/22 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	[To Be Announced]
03/01 — Dave N3IDH	06/07 — Harold K3HCR
03/08 — Bob AB3ED	06/14 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
03/15 — Frank N3FB	06/21 — Dave N3IDH
03/22 — Dave N3DFK	06/28 — Bob AB3ED
03/29 — Kevin N3HKQ	07/05 — Kevin N3HKQ
04/05 — Bill W3WH	07/12 — Dave N3DFK
04/12 — Harold K3HCR	



One more party photo we didn't have room for on Page 2!

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

Minutes, November 13th 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 3rd (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 2nd KB3GMN. Secretary cast 1 vote for K3VX. (applause)
- Floor opened for nominations for Vice President/Secretary. No new nominations. Move to close; N3ZNI 2nd 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: Kilowatt Award

Larry K3VX (right) presenting the **2008 Kilowatt Award** to Bob Timmins AB3ED (left) at the WASH Holiday Party in recognition of all of his efforts for the club this last year.

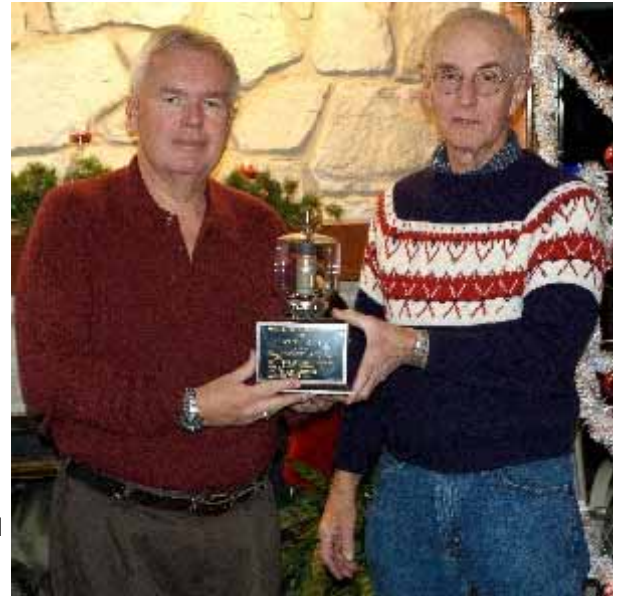


Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2008, 2009 Lana Timmins

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	W3RJM	WASH FL	WASH VI
AB3EN	KB3KOT	N3FB	W3RWS	KA3UPY	NP2JF
AC4KU	KB3KQY	N3FPF	W3SRL	W4ZE	
AD3AA	KB3NSG	N3HKQ	W3VFA	WASH GA	Silent
AE3DL	KB3NVL	N3KFD	W3WH	K3OL	Keys
K3AIR	KB3NVM	N3MJP	W3WN	KB3IJX	
K3HCR	KB3ORR	N3PN	W4ZE	WASH NC	K3EED
K3LGM	KB3PSB	N3QMV	WA3JPP	N3RNX	(George)
K3SGT	KB3QHC	N3RDV	WA3NB	WASH NE	KB3ENX
K3VX	KC4WTT	N3SBF	WA3RVD	N0PEU	KB3FQT
K3WJL	KE7FD	N3TIR	WA4ONC	WASH OH	N3FZ
KA3TWI	KE8RN	N3XI	WB3CAI	N8DPW	N3KEH
KB3FNM	N0VLR	N3ZEL	WB4GCS	WASH TN	N3OBD
KB3GMN	N1NCZ	N3ZK	WO3Z	KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3GMP	N2QIV	N3ZNI	Jane Wagner	N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3GMU	N3AWF	NU3S	Thomas L.	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GUZ	N3BPB	W3JJC	Tulley	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3HFP	N3CZZ	W3LE		Jane Wagner	

Through December 31st, 2008

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2009 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

January 10 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
January 15 th	WASH VEC Session	Jacqué N3ZEL n3zel@comcast.net
January 24 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave	PSK-31 7—11 PM EST
February 21 st	Breezeshooter's Groundwave	CW 7—11 PM EST
February 21 st / 22 nd	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 22 nd	WASHFest 2009	http://www.n3sh.org
March 1 st	MARCFest 2009	http://www.w3csl.org
March 7 th & 8 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 21 st	Breezeshooter's Groundwave	SSB 7—11 PM EST
March 28 th & 29 th	CQ WPX SSB Contest	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
April 16 th	WASH VEC Session	Jacqué N3ZEL n3zel@comcast.net
April 26 th	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	http://www.tworiversarc.com
May 3 rd	20 th Pittsburgh Marathon	http://www.marathon.central.org
May 16 th -18 th	Dayton Hamvention	http://www.hamvention.org
May 27 th — June 1 st	NP2SH DX-pedition to Plumeria	Contact W3WH or K3VX for more info
May 30 th -31 st	CQ WPX CW Contest	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
June 7 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.net



Amateur Radio Volunteers Needed!

Jeffrey Hutzleman N3NHS

After a five year hiatus, the Pittsburgh Marathon is back!

The marathon's 20th running will take place on May 3rd, 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, 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.

"You Might Be Addicted to Ham Radio If..."

This version courtesy of Jennifer Patterson WA4CVV, as posted to the [DX IS](#) reflector

1. When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you would need.
2. When a friend gets a ride from you and remarks that you have a lot of CBs in your vehicle, it turns in to an hour long rant on how ham radio is not CB radio.
3. When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.
4. When you can look at a globe and be able to point to your antipode (and you know what an antipode is). (I do now, but I didn't know what an antipode is. Cool antipode map at <http://www.antipodemap.com/>)
5. Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.
6. You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.
7. Your favorite vacation spots are always on mountain tops.
8. You notice more antennas than road signs while driving your car.
9. You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.
10. Porcupines appear to be fascinated with your car.
11. If you ever tried to figure out the operating frequency of your microwave oven.
12. When you look around your bedroom of wall to wall ham gear and ask: Why am I still single?
13. The local city council doesn't like you.
14. You think towers look pretty.
15. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
16. Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM radio station.
17. The wife and kids are away and the first thing that goes through your head is that no one will bother you while you call "CQ DX" a few hundred times.
18. When you pull into a donut shop and the cops there on their coffee break ask if they can see your radio setup.
19. You refer to your children as your "Harmonics".
20. Your girlfriend or wife asks: "You're going to spend \$XXXX on what???"
21. You actually believe you got a good deal on eBay.
22. When you see a house with a metal roof, and your only thought is what a great ground plane that would be.
23. You have pictures of your radio equipment as wallpaper on your computer's desktop.
24. Every family vacation includes a stop at a Ham radio store.
25. The first question you ask the new car dealer is: "What is the alternator's current output?"
26. You buy a brand new car based on the radio mounting locations and antenna mounting possibilities.
27. You have tapped out Morse code on your car's horn.
28. A lightning storm takes out a new Laptop, Plasma TV, and DVD Recorder, but all you care about is if your radios are okay.
29. Your wife has had to ride in the back seat because you had radio equipment in the front seat.
30. Your wife threatens you with divorce when you tell her that you are going on a "fox" hunt.
31. Talking about male and female connectors makes you feel excited.
32. You dream of big, comfortable, knobs, but not on women.
33. You always park on the top floor of the deck, just in case you might have to wait in the car later.
34. When house hunting, you look for the best room for a radio shack and scan the property for possible tower placement.
35. When house hunting, you give your realtor topographical maps showing local elevations.
36. The real estate agent scratches his head when you ask if the soil conductivity is high, medium, or low.
37. You have Ham radio magazines in the bathroom.
38. When your doorbell rings, you immediately shut down the amplifier.
39. Fermentation never enters your mind when "homebrew" is mentioned.
40. Instead of just saying no, you have said "negative".
41. You have used a person's name to indicate acknowledgement.
42. You become impatient waiting for the latest AES catalog to arrive.
43. You have found yourself whistling "CQ" using Morse code.
44. You always schedule the third weekend in May for vacation.
45. You walk carefully in your back yard to avoid being close-lined.
46. You have deep anxiety or panic attacks during high winds or heavy ice.
47. You and the FedEx/UPS men are on a first name basis.
48. You really start to miss people that you've never seen.
49. Your exercise machine is a Morse code keyer.
50. You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.
51. Your neighbors thought you were nuts when you ripped up your lawn to bury chicken wire.
52. Your next door neighbor thinks that your wife is a widow.
53. Your wife has delivered meals to your Ham shack.
54. If you sold all your Ham radio equipment, you could pay off your mortgage.

Let's Use Linux!

Dave Bartholomew ABØTO

As a Window's user, I'm pretty disgusted with computers with all the bugs, bloated anti-virus programs, and system self-destructs I've suffered. As a Linux user, I'm just disappointed that there isn't more good software being written for that operating system.

I'm trying to move to Ubuntu Linux but the only thing holding me back is the dearth of great software for it. Sure, a few good programs run under WINE (I think that stands for Windows INterface Emulator) like 4NEC2 antenna modeling software. But the WINE project is a volunteer effort and it's loaded to the gills with games in the to-do and completed lists. Very few "working" applications have been submitted.

Would maybe the people who write software for us also write their programs to run in Linux or provide the dll libraries to the WINE people?

By the way, Ubuntu Linux version 8.04 was pretty easy to install and setup on my 2002 vintage laptop in a dual boot configuration with Windows, as long as I used the minimal installation disc so it would find everything that was needed and install it from the online website. It did almost all the work. I haven't found any bugs and the software that runs on it does so perfectly.

It's rock solid, all the drivers are there, and no anti-virus software is needed. So I heartily recommend it.



As Trial Nears, Palmdale CA Proposes More Restrictions

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT , December 19th, 2008 — As his February 2009 court date approaches, Alec Zubarau, WB6X, of Palmdale, California, gets ready to battle his town after being ordered to dismantle his previously approved antenna system. The City of Palmdale has widened its opposition to Amateur Radio antennas by proposing an ordinance written to thwart the installation of antenna support structures throughout the city.

In 2005, Zubarau applied for a building permit to erect an antenna support structure on his property. The City approved his request, and building permit in hand, Zubarau installed a 22 foot tall crank-up tower (with an ultimate height of 55 feet), but did not place an antenna atop the structure. He also installed a 23 foot tall mast on his house, for a total mast height of 43 feet; he installed an inverted-V on the mast. In January 2007, he placed a 4 element 20 meter SteppIR antenna on the crank-up tower, and the neighbors started complaining to the City.

ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI, said that the neighbors' assertions consisted of what he called "the typical complaints: Aesthetic impact, diminution of property values and RF interference. The RFI complaints were general in nature; no direct evidence was shown of actual RFI, but the City's Planning Commission staff took the position that "based on anecdotal evidence presented by the homeowners, the transmissions occurring from the antenna are causing interference with electrical equipment in the surrounding neighborhood."

Woll said that after Zubarau installed the SteppIR in 2007, the City of Palmdale, acting on a petition signed by almost 70 of Zubarau's neighbors, voted to revoke Zubarau's original building permit after he had relied on it in putting up his tower. "In order to gain a continuance, Zubarau told the Planning Commission he would remove the SteppIR, in essence, reverting his antenna configuration back to the way to it was before he installed the antenna" said Len Shaffer, WA6QHD, Zubarau's attorney. "At the next hearing, he was ordered to remove not only the antenna, but the support structure, as well."

The City's planning staff also pointed out that Zubarau's recently erected horizontal array extends three feet into the required 10 foot sideyard setback, and that the active array exceeds thirty feet in height beyond the limit in the ordinance.

"Because Zubarau's permit referred to the support structure as 'an antenna with cage (the base)' and the Planning Commission called it a tower antenna, everyone assumed it was indeed an antenna," Shaffer recalled. "When I pointed out to the Planning Commission that it was nothing more than a support structure and did not radiate, they were surprised. They asked if the support structure functioned as an antenna without the horizontal element. I told them it did not. Judy Skousen, Palmdale's Assistant City Attorney, told the Commission did not matter — the permit and application was for a tower antenna and that is what it was. It did not matter if the nomenclature was added by city employees rather than Zubarau."

"After exhausting his administrative remedies, Zubarau challenged the action in the courts, aided by Shaffer," Woll said "The court date has been set for early February 2009." Woll continued, saying that the planning staff is placing the burden on Zubarau, saying that he has not submitted a site-specific engineering study showing that the operation or transmission from his house is not interfering with residential uses. The staff also notes that the FCC has failed to resolve RFI complaints in this matter, inferring that the City must act to solve them.

Palmdale Proposes Rewrite of Amateur Radio Antenna Ordinance

Shortly after issuing the permit revocation order, ARRL Southwestern Director Dick Norton, N6AA, said that the City of Palmdale began drafting an amended antenna ordinance that placed severe restrictions on all Amateur Radio antennas. "The draft was released just before Thanksgiving, and a hearing was scheduled for December 4," Norton said. "Prior to that hearing and at the request of Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI — who attended the Palmdale Planning Commission meeting along with about a dozen local hams and supporters — ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote a lengthy letter to the City Attorney pointing out numerous flaws in the proposed ordinance and explaining why many of its provisions are void or unenforceable, being pre-empted by federal or state law."

In his letter, Imlay explained to the City that it is without authority to resolve RFI complaints; the jurisdiction is solely that of the FCC, as stated in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. "The Federal Communications Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over radio frequency interference (RFI) matters, and technical matters specifically," he said.

Imlay pointed out that the "first specific concern in the draft ordinance is the statement that 'an Amateur Radio antenna, the operation of which causes unreasonable interference with electrical equipment in the surrounding neighborhood, is not compatible with that neighborhood.'"

This is "patently false," Imlay said, stating "there is no correlation between the presence of an outdoor Amateur Radio antenna, its height, configuration or placement and radio frequency interference (RFI) to home electronic equipment. As a matter of technical fact, the higher an antenna, the lower the electrical field in the horizontal plane of the home electronic equipment, and the less the likelihood of RFI in that equipment. Furthermore, the 'cause' of RFI is not the power of an Amateur Radio station, or the presence of an antenna, but rather the inability of home electronic equipment to reject unwanted signals. FCC regulations clearly obligate most home electronic equipment to accept any interference from licensed radio services as a condition of the permitted marketing and operation of that equipment."

Furthermore, in a Conference Report from the 97th Congress in 1982, Imlay explained that Congressional report "...is further intended to clarify the reservation of exclusive jurisdiction to the Federal Communications Commission over matters involving RFI. Such matters shall not be regulated by local or state law, nor shall radio transmitting apparatus be subject to local or state regulation as part of any effort to resolve an RFI complaint. The Conferees believe that radio transmitter operators should not be subject to fines, forfeitures or other liability imposed by any local or state authority as a result of interference appearing in home electronic equipment or systems. Rather, the Conferees intend that regulation of RFI phenomena shall be imposed only by the Commission."

Saying that the Conference Report went on to clarify "that the exclusive jurisdiction over RFI incidents (including preemption of state and local regulation of such phenomena) lies with the FCC," Imlay told the City of Palmdale that "Obviously, state or local regulations based on interference from one radio service to another would directly frustrate the intention and goals of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended."

Imlay said that in 1985, the FCC said that the "federal power in the area of radio frequency interference is exclusive; to the extent that any state or local government attempts to regulate in this area, [its] regulations are preempted." Imlay explained that the FCC concluded that the Federal regulatory scheme is so pervasive that it is reasonable to assume that Congress did not intend to permit states to supplement it.

According to Shaffer, the City of Palmdale does not think antenna support structures are "compatible" with the town's image. In a hearing of the Palmdale City Council earlier this year, the following exchange took place:

Councilmember Hofbauer: *The Ordinance did not provide a prospective review. So, I mean, at what point do we? Let's, let's take this out of the context of his antenna. You've got a building that is down the street we don't like, do we retroactively revoke the permits and come and bulldoze it?*

Mayor Ledford: *That's not.*

Councilmember Hofbauer: *Because we don't like the paint color on it now?*

Mayor Ledford: *That's not the same.*

Councilmember Hofbauer: *No, it could be termed incompatible.*

**Continued
on Page 9**

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 10th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 10th, 2007 from 7 to 11 PM EST.
(That's January 11th 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, no later than January 1st.

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 7th, 2009

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

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.

Building My Own Stealth Antenna

Penny C. Larson KG7MCH courtesy of www.eham.net

I read the article (on eHam) from KB2DHG about making his own antenna, and I wanted to try it too. One month earlier, I had obtained my General license and was excited to get on HF. But I had a couple things I needed to work out. One, I lived in a CCR, and two, my radio would be on the second floor of the house.

A local 2-meter net gave me some wonderful ideas to try on making a good ground and about hiding antenna wire under the eaves of the house.

So, with several of these ideas in my mind, I took apart a "slinky" antenna I had purchased on eBay. Due to my restrictions, the "slinky" wasn't a good choice, but the PVC tee and the way that the coax wound around the PVC several times before running up through the center to meet the ends of each "slinky" seemed to work very well. I removed the two slinky ends and soldered 12 gauge wires (51 feet each) to the coax and covered the connection with tape.

I secured the PVC with nylon rope and a screw-in hook, and placed it into the top peak of eaves (on the back-side of the house). Each wire leg of my antenna was stapled to the under-side of the eaves as they ran down from the second story to the first.

To add to the stealth of the antenna, I painted everything I could with the same color as the house.

I have found that this wire antenna works very well on 75 meters, as I check into the Night-Train Net (3.900) on a regular basis at 9 P.M (pacific-time), using a MFJ 949E tuner and using either my Yaesu FT-101EE, or an ICOM 706MKIIG. It is really thrilling to be talking on something I built and put up.

I would like to thank the many HAMS that submit to these sites. Without you, many of us would just give up amateur radio before giving it a chance due to the hurdles we must overcome.

My next antenna project will be the "flag-pole" Hustler 5-BTV. I have already begun reading the many different versions of this on-line.



Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2009 Penny Larson KB7MCH

Mayor Ledford: *I don't think the courts would support that. I think an antenna, like this, gives us that discretion."*

"The Mayor told the Council that while, if a house was built that was not compatible with the neighborhood, they would not bulldoze it to the ground, this is 'just an antenna,' and they can get rid of it if they want to," Shaffer said.

Going to Court

Norton said that the ARRL's Amateur Radio Legal Defense and Assistance Committee has voted to contribute \$5000 toward the cost of Zubarau's lawsuit against the City of Palmdale. "More than \$1500 has already been contributed by clubs and their members from throughout the Southwestern Division, and this contribution from the League-managed Antenna Defense Fund will further help defray the expenses of preparing for the February 2009 court date," Norton said. "Len Shaffer is performing the legal work *pro bono*, but even just compiling the record to present in court can be costly."

ARRL Defense Committee Chair Jay Bellows, K0QB, said that although the case has not yet reached the appellate level, "The egregious nature of Palmdale's actions -- including ordering removal of a previously approved antenna tower -- the potential impact on a large number of amateurs and the existence of substantial local financial support from the ham community were significant factors in the Committee's decision to provide support for this case."

Bellows said he has participated in nearly 100 tower and antenna matters, from working with local hams and municipalities on tower ordinances to individual tower issues including litigation at the local and appellate level over the past 20 years. "If I've learned anything," he said, "I learned that a simple, clear explanation of who we are, what we do and why the antenna is needed are essential. Even if those steps are perfectly executed, the local authority (in this case, the City of Palmdale) has to be convinced that: 1. Federal law trumps the local zoning interests either generally or in the particular case; 2. The amateur is going to be politely persistent despite opposition from the locality; 3. The cost to the locality in time and treasure will exceed any political benefit in 'protecting its citizens from the scourge and despoliation of ugly Amateur Radio antennas.' Still, the single most important factor is that the amateur should always be the guy in the 'white hat,' no matter how reprehensible or offensive the actions of the locality or the opposing neighbors."

Norton went on to say that Woll has met with Palmdale hams and the management of the Palmdale Public Safety Department, who he described as "supportive of hams." Woll and Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, will meet with Palmdale's Planning Department and Assistant City Attorney in early January. "The proposed ordinance has been the subject of considerable discussion in Amateur Radio circles," Norton said. "Local hams, [as well as] Division and National League representatives are devoting considerable time and effort toward resolving the issue."

A very good friend of mine moved a few blocks when he retired from the US Air Force. He made SURE (ham lawyer) that there were no covenants, etc.

I was at sea, but they did a June VHF contest from his place. One neighbor complained about what turned out to be 6 meters over a baby monitor.

Since he was a builder for a developer, he assumed the ubiquitous covenants -- nope. So, he's talking to my friend, who dials up the neighbor's baby monitor. Same situation [as described last month]:

"You mean, you can listen to what is going on in my bedroom?"

"Yep"

Baby monitor and complaints went away.

— Jim Sanford WB4GCS

Palmdale, CA
Continued
from Page 7



QSO Around Zhu Jiang

Neo Chan BG7NYT courtesy of www.qrz.com

December 9th, 2008 — It was a nice day last Saturday.

Several ham and I went to WuTong mountain and did QSO around Zhu Jiang delta region. We had two batteries and Yaesu FT-7800 radio.

BH7OKU has a 8 element HB9CV antenna DIY by himself.

BH7MZM has a 5 element Yagi antenna.

We arrived at the top of a mountain and set up our antenna. Nobody knows how to use FT-7800, except for me. At first, I helped BH7PGA to set up all the channel in Shenzhen, and told him how to use it. He said that he just bought it, so he didn't know how to use it.

When make sure all of things was OK, we begun QSO with Shenzhen's radio station. I turned on Yagi antenna and point to the LuoHu, Shenzhen.

The first radio station which I had connected was 439.850 by BH7MZM, we had a pretty good start. And then another radio stations out of Shenzhen.

Then BG7OKU used his own HB9CV antenna to QSO with ZhanJiang, Guangdong, but he failed. I think it might be caused by distance.

By the way, there were two shutterbug to taken along with camera, they were BH7MZM and BH7OMU. Actually, I am shutterbug too, but my wife took my camera with her and went to Hua mountain for a trip. BH7MZM and me are Canon fans, BG7OMU is a Nikon fan.

Anyway, we had completed our mission this time, we were talking about radio with each other on the air.

AMSAT Japan Announces Amateur Satellite to Venus

Graham Shirville G3VZV courtesy AMSAT News Service

JARL & JAMSAT are collaborating with the Japanese University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC) to send an amateur radio payload into a Venus transfer orbit with the primary JAXA Planet-C Venus Orbiter mission planned for May, 2010.

UNITEC-1, developed by the teams who have already launched CubeSats such as University of Tokyo's XI-IV, XI-V, and Tokyo Institute of Technology's CUTE-1, CUTE-1.7+APD has the following engineering missions:

1. Onboard computers developed by several universities will be tested in the harsh space environment in the form of a competition; i.e., the computer which can survive to the last in the radiation-rich deep space environment will win the competition.
2. Technologies to receive and decode very weak and low bit rate signal coming from deep space will be developed and tested.
3. Technologies to estimate orbit and signal Doppler shift of the satellite based on the received RF signal will be developed and tested. These technologies are essential for tracking and receiving signals from a satellite in deep space.

The UNITEC-1 team invites the support of amateur radio amateurs all around the world to participate in the receiving and data capture experiments in objectives 2 and 3, above. They note that amateur radio operators working as individuals or in groups develop stations and techniques to relay their received signal reports and data to the UNITEC-1 control station. This is also a unique opportunity to propose amateur experiments or competitions to the satellite team.

UNITEC-1 will transmit a signal consisting of a CW beacon of about 1 bps speed. One experiment requiring the participation of several amateur radio earth stations would include the development of interferometric techniques to combine the received signals from several antennae to improve the received S/N ratio from the spacecraft outbound from earth.

The UNITEC-1 website provides the latest mission information (such as orbit parameters, data formats and current status). UNITEC-1 will be the first university developed interplanetary satellite as well as the first amateur interplanetary satellite. The team sincerely hopes that UNITEC-1 will provide unique and exciting opportunity for the radio amateurs all over the world to enjoy reception of signals from deep space.

The UNITEC-1 website can be seen at: http://unitec-1.cc.u-tokai.ac.jp/en/news_en

DX News Briefs



A team of 6 Italian hams have been granted permission to operate from the West Bank, Palestine. They should be QRV now through 11 January as **E44M**, on 160 through 2 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and all digital modes. They plan to focus on the digital modes and the low bands, and pay attention to stations outside of Europe when propagation permits. It is not known if the current unrest in the Gaza Strip will affect their operation, although it is hoped that it does not. QSL via IZØBTV. More info at www.dxccoffee.com/e44m — Amateur Radio Newsline

The Provins ARC will be activating Tunisia as **TS7C** from 8—19 January. They will activate IOTA AF-073 Kerkennah Island, 160—10 meters with emphasis on the low bands, CW, SSB, FM, RTTY and digital modes, using 6 stations that will be QRV 24/7. QSL via F4EGD, direct or via bureau. More information at www.tx7c.net — F6KOP, TS7C PR #2

“Reluctantly, due to the current US economic situation, the team has decided to postpone the **CYØ Sable Island** DXpedition planned for 2009.

While we are hopeful to reorganize the DXpedition (possibly for 2010), we have decided that rather than tie up the funds so graciously made available by our sponsors, we will return donations received so the sponsorship may be available to other DXpeditions for this year. any sponsoring organization may feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the matter. We are hopeful that our kind sponsors will be willing to renew their sponsorship when the Dxpediton is able to be reorganized in the future.

The sabledx.com website will remain functional for the time being” — WV2B

Members of the Mexican Contest and DX Club are celebrating their fourth anniversary by using the special call **4A1DXXE** from 25 December through 6 January. Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via N7RO and the Logbook to the World. For more information visit www.dxxe.org. — Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX

Captain Jack Sparrow Report: There has been a pirate station using the call **VP2V/G6AY** on CW over the last few weeks, and both Jim, G3RTE and I have received QSL requests from numerous stations. VP2V/G6AY was the special call of our February 2006 DX-pedition and has not been activated since. Neither do we have any current plans to re-activate the call. All QSL requests received to date have been returned with an explanatory note. — G3SWH

F8EN is now QRV as **TR8CR** through 26 January, mostly on 40, 30 & 20 meters. QSL via F6AJA — F6AJA

W2CG is now QRV as **P4ØCG** through 17 January. QSL via home call or via Logbook of the World — K1XN

OZ8KR will be QRV as C56KR 9—14 January & 23 January—4 February, 40—10 meters. QSL via home call — NG3K

QSL Routes

3V8BB via YT1AD — W2IRT
 4LØA via UU4JMG — NN3W
 6V7L via F8ATM — JA1HGY
 9L1X via I2YSB — BA4DW
 9M6XRO via MØURX — W2IRT
 9M8Z via MØURX — NN3W
 A35SS via JA2LSS — JA1HGY
 A73A via EA7FTR — NN3W
 BT1OH via BA4EG — WA3FRP
 CN2IPA via HA3JB — JA1HGY
 CN2R via W7EJ — K7LAY
 E73M via K2PF — AA5AM
 EK6TA via DJØMCZ — NN3W
 EM1HO via I2PJA — I1HJT
 ER4DX via ER1DA — K8SIX
 ER5GB via W3HMK — W2IRT
 EJ3JA via OK3AA — W9OL
 HD5J via JA6GCE — JA1HGY
 HQ9R via K5WW — K6GEP
 J88DR via G3TBK — JA1HGY

OJØJ via OHØRJ — PAØWRS
 PZ5Z via OM2FY — NKØS
 S79NS via DL2RNS — KZ2I
 SU8BHI via HA3JB — JA1HGY
 TO5DX via AA4NN — KZ2I
 TG9NX via N4FKZ — NN3W
 TR8CA via F6CBC — NN3W
 TO4X via KQ1F — W4DN
 UP2L via UN7LZ — K3WI
 V44KA1 via K2SB — N8DX
 V63ZM via K5ZM — KS7S
 VK9ANU via JO2SLZ — KRØO
 VO2A via VE3LYC — W3AWU
 VU9MY via DJ7JK — W4DN
 VU7SJ via DL9GFB — JA1HGY
 YJØAQY via JA1JQY — W2IRT
 YJØAVE via JF1OCQ — K3LL
 ZK1EHH via K8VIR — W4DN
 ZP6/N3BNA via KA2AEV — W2IRT
 ZS6CCY via K3IRV — K6GEP

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

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League



On Tuesday, December 9, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce — the congressional committee that oversees the Federal Communications Commission — released its majority staff report "on the bipartisan investigation of the FCC's regulatory processes and management practices." The report — *Deception and Distrust: The Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Kevin J. Martin* — stated that the investigation was prompted "by allegations to the effect that [FCC] Chairman Kevin J. Martin has abused FCC procedures by manipulating or suppressing reports, data and information."

"Our investigation confirmed a number of troubling allegations raised by individuals in and outside the FCC," said Representative Bart Stupak (D-MI), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. "The Committee staff report details some of the most egregious abuses of power, suppression of information and manipulation of data under Chairman Martin's leadership. It is my hope that this report will serve as a roadmap for a fair, open and efficient FCC under new leadership in the next administration."

Representative John D. Dingell (D-MI), Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce echoed Stupak's concerns: "Any of these findings, individually, are cause for concern. Together, the findings suggest that, in recent years, the FCC has operated in a dysfunctional manner and Commission business has suffered as a result. It is my hope that the new FCC Chairman will find this report instructive and that it will prove useful in helping the Commission avoid making the same mistakes."

In its 110-page report, the Committee described 12 allegations, ranging from retaliation against FCC employees who differed with the Chairman's policies to enhanced 911 wireless services to broadband over power lines (BPL). To go along with the 12 allegations, 22 exhibits were attached to the report, such as internal e-mails, e-mails from FCC commissioners to their staff, statements made by FCC commissioners and letters to and from commissioners (including Chairman Martin). Not all 12 allegations were substantiated by the Committee.

Broadband over Power Lines

Concerning BPL, the report alleges that FCC officials "ignored complaints of radio frequency interference caused by BPL high-speed Internet technology, delayed an enforcement investigation for two years and improperly withheld engineering data regarding BPL from the public."

The report found that in October 2004, as then-Chairman Michael Powell issued his final rule "defining BPL access and setting technical and administrative requirements to protect licensed radio operators from harmful interference," the FCC "withheld from the public certain engineering reports on which it relied in promulgating the rule" from the final rule and order.

Even though the BPL rules were adopted during Powell's tenure, the report found that "it was under Chairman Martin that the Enforcement Bureau and the General Counsel continued to withhold the redacted engineering reports and insisted on doing so in the course of the ensuing litigation [with the ARRL]."

The report goes on to say that on April 25, 2008, the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit found that the FCC, in the case filed by the ARRL, "violated the Administrative Procedure Act when it played 'hide and seek' with engineering data used in its support of the order and 'cherry-picked' a study on which it had relied."

"The fact that the FCC withheld the required engineering reports in this matter," the report concluded, "indicates poor judgment and an attempt to hide critical weaknesses in its decision. Ironically, the FCC's attempts to hide this information only served to provoke suspicion and its handmaiden, litigation. This case [filed by the ARRL] illustrates the extent to which a culture of secrecy has developed at the FCC that is as counterproductive as it is unnecessary." The report states that this "particular situation" has been corrected by the courts and technological issues arising from BPL have been "rendered largely moot over time due to improvements" in BPL technology.

"It is distressing, but unfortunately not surprising," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, "to read that the FCC's mishandling of the BPL issue was simply a part of a broad pattern of dysfunction at the Commission. This is a relatively recent development and is unprecedented in the ARRL's long experience with the FCC -- an association that dates back to the very creation of the agency, 20 years after the founding of the ARRL. While the marketplace failure of BPL and the steps taken voluntarily by the few companies that have deployed BPL systems have combined to minimize interference, the regulatory issue is by no means moot. The rules remain inadequate."

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

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Sumner continued: "More than seven months after the Court remand, the FCC has done nothing to correct its errors, nor has it complied with the very specific instructions from the United States Court of Appeals.

These instructions included the disclosure of the studies that it intentionally withheld from the public, but upon which it relied in adopting its rules. Indeed, the only step the Commission has taken since the Court's remand order is to mount an unsuccessful effort to oppose our claim for reimbursement of the printing costs for the briefs in the case — a small fraction of the expenses incurred by the ARRL in our appeal — expenses that would not have been necessary had the Commission followed the law in the first place."

Other Findings by the Committee

The report also showed instances of where Chairman Martin "manipulated, withheld or suppressed data, reports and information," and said Martin's "manipulation [of another report] may have damaged the credibility of the Commission, and certainly undermined the integrity of the staff. Moreover, it was done with the purpose of affecting the congressional decision-making, in that it was issued as a report to Congress."

Saying that FCC matters have not been handled in an "open or transparent manner," the report said the FCC "rais[ed] suspicions both inside and outside the Commission that some parties and issues are not being treated fairly." The report stated that the Committee's impressions were "confirmed" when it discovered that Chairman Martin made a "preemptory reversal" of [a report's] conclusions and that Martin did not seek "further public comment or conduct further studies" thus giving the impression "that the issue was not handled fairly or openly."

Committee Methodology

Over the course of its investigation, the Committee staff reviewed "several hundred thousand documents, including 95 boxes of paper documents; conducted 73 interviews of current and former FCC employees and individuals associated with the telecommunications industry; solicited and received e-mails from FCC employees and contractors at a secure e-mail address established for this purpose, and reviewed dozens of allegations."

The Committee also emphasized that not everything they found is included in its report: "A few allegations were received so recently that they have not been investigated and are not included [in the report]. We have also excluded matters that seemed trivial per se. Still, other allegations have not been adequately investigated because the FCC has not yet produced all of the records requested by the Committee."



"... and, I've Got a Golden Ticket..."

Our host for the evening, Bob AB3ED, clasping his tickets while waiting for the results of the evening's Chinese Auction. It just seemed like he was singing along with *Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*...

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The WASHRag

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