



WASHRAG™

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N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

WASHFest: Sell Out!

Things have been a little wild and wholly these last two weeks as we not only have a sellout for tables but a waiting list!

Steve Lane W3SRL tells me that this has only happened twice before in the history of the WashFest. Its taken me by surprise but it is a good one to have to deal with.

I want to thank Carol Danko KB3GMN, Bill Hill W3WH and Steve Lane W3SRL for their help in organizing the event again this year. Their help was especially necessary this year as I have been traveling a lot for my work. There was a little confusion this year with my telephone number being wrong on the flyer, the unfortunate canceling of Riley Hollingsworth's visit for personal reasons and a mistaken reservation for 8 tables that turned out to be a mistake.

However we are no worse for wear and I look forward to a great hamfest. All that is left is for you to come and enjoy the first western PA hamfest of 2009. I look forward to seeing you on February 22nd at the CSVFD social hall.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ, **WASHFest 2009** Chairman



Please keep KB3GMN Happy! Buy tickets!

WASHFest 2006 photo courtesy of and
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Next Meeting: February 19th, 2009

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, February 19th, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM. *Note that this is one week later than usual due to scheduling conflicts at the library.*

Topics for the evening include final preparations for **WASHFest 2009**, the 2M Simplex contest, and a PL-259 soldering demonstration courtesy of Ed N3ZNI.

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

February is not my favorite month weather-wise – no antenna work. But otherwise it's a good ham radio month. Our sold-out **WASHfest** on Sunday, February 22nd is a great start for the club activities. Please patronize the vendors that are the backbone of any hamfest.

The ARRL DX CW contest is on February 21st – 22nd and the Breezeshooters GroundWave CW is February 21st. The low bands 160, 80 and 40M are hopping with activity.

The K5D DXpedition to Desecheo Island also seems to have pried open 10 and 15 Meters!

If you find that your wire antennas need improvement, plan now for springtime visits from W3WH, N3SBF and/or me armed with the

antenna launcher. We know of several wire antenna projects that got postponed by bad weather. You guys are still on the list.

Is it too early to think about the Pittsburgh Marathon, Field Day, Club Picnic and other warm weather activities? The Marathon needs volunteers. And certainly not too early for Field Day plans. I need to know whether we want to use the Mingo Observatory property? Do you have other suggestions?

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“Seen” at the January Club 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
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
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

Activities & Operating Events	Bob Timmins AB3ED
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 WASHRag”, “The Mariner”, SHARCfest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2009, N3SH Net, WA3SH Net and WASHNet are™ trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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 April 16th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, April 16th, 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, July 16th, 2009
 Thursday, October 15th, 2009
 Thursday, January 21st, 2010
 Thursday, April 15th, 2010

January 31st was a fantastic Saturday to prep for a football game, as it turned out, but who knew? as **the WASH Breakfast Gang** gathered once again at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's group included N3SBF, KB3GMN, K3VX, AE3DL, WB4GCS, W3VFA, & W3WH (Ye editor and KB3ERQ were both sleeping off an all-nighter after swapping out 120 XP machines for Vista machines at work!) Bill and Larry report that topics included Dayton, the upcoming NP2SH trip, a 43 foot vertical, Marine Radio, repeater propagation over water, Elecraft K3's, the stimulus package, and a lot of talk from N3BPB that no one could give any details on (hmmm... don't shoot the messenger!)

Want to join in the next time? The more the merrier! The next gathering will be on Saturday, February 28th 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!

Because of the way the month works out, this means that the next breakfast will **NOT** be the Saturday prior to **WASHFest 2009**. We still don't know as of deadline if we will have access to the Memorial Hall to set tables up on Saturday the 21st, so please pay attention to the reflector and the repeaters for the latest information on that. If we DO have access to the hall on Saturday, we can try to gather for breakfast before, or lunch after setup, at a location to be announced.

It goes without saying (but we'll say it anyway) that with our biggest event coming up this weekend, it's pretty much "all hands on deck" time. As always, a little effort on everyone's part — setting up tables, helping the vendors unload, covering the gate and club tables, assisting on talk-in, selling prize and 50/50 tickets — makes a smooth hamfest for our vendors and guests, and a fun time for all.

If you want to help but you're not sure where you'll be needed, contact Kevin N3HKQ and let him know what you can do and when. You do NOT have to be present for the whole day; we need help both in the early morning, during the morning, and into early afternoon.

And while we're at it, a very big thank you and "tip of the hat" to Carol KB3GMN. It's thanks to her hard work and extra effort that we have some new vendors coming to our little event for the first time, and that we've had only our 3rd (and earliest ever) vendor table sell-out prior to **WASHFest** taking place!

On the mend: Ted W3TSP (ex - KA3COR / WN3BOJ) will not be with us at **WASHFest** this year, as he will be undergoing a minor medical procedure at St. Margaret's hospital on the 20th. He'll be recuperating at home and then back in action around March 4th. Of course, we all wish him well, and look forward to seeing him at upcoming events!

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. If

you are "on the list" already, be advised that U of Dayton has confirmed the reservations, and the funds are now due! If you're not already on the list but you're interested, contact Greg at kq3dx@verizon.net to see if there are any available spaces left. And W3WN promises to let someone else pick the restaurant(s)!



January 15th VE Session Results

WASH's latest VE Exam session was on January 15th, 2009.

We had three candidates which yielded two new Technician licensees:

- James H. McCullers KB3SFK
- Deborah Schwing KD8KAC

Congratulations and welcome to the new hams!

Many thanks to our VEs that came to help: Bob AB3ED, Don AE3DL, Bud N3TIR, Randy N3ZK, and Ed, N3ZNI.

— 73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
 WASH VE Team Leader

Mike Lazaroff K3AIR has asked to be relieved of his duties as the WPA DXCC card checker as of the end of January.

Mike has cited inability to spend enough time performing the tasks due to his increasing work load in the last year as an attorney; he's barely been able to spend any time on the air in the last 2 years.

Oh behalf of everyone Mike has helped out over his years as DXCC checker, thank you for all your hard work, and you will be missed.

WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

02/01 — No Net due to SuperBowl XLIII	04/26 — Dave N3IDH
02/08 — Bill W3WH	05/03 — Bob AB3ED
02/15 — Harold K3HCR	05/10 — Frank N3FB
02/22 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	05/17 — Dave N3DFK
03/01 — Dave N3IDH	05/24 — Kevin N3HKQ
03/08 — Bob AB3ED	05/31 — Special Guest [To Be Announced]
03/15 — Frank N3FB	06/07 — Harold K3HCR
03/22 — Dave N3DFK	06/14 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
03/29 — Kevin N3HKQ	06/21 — Dave N3IDH
04/05 — Bill W3WH	06/28 — Bob AB3ED
04/12 — Harold K3HCR	07/05 — Kevin N3HKQ
04/19 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	07/12 — Dave N3DFK

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2009 Today! Membership Application on Page 11!

Minutes, January 8th Meeting

Bob Timmins AB3ED, Vice President / Secretary, **WASH**

Larry K3VX, **called** the meeting **to order** at 1900 hours. There were 21 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the November 2008 meeting as published in the newsletter. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark reported the club's account balance.

Dues were received from many in attendance.

Secretary (AB3ED): The club records have been received from N3FB. The new secretary is open for business.

VE Report (N3ZEL): absent. Larry reported that the next VE session is January 15, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB): N3FB reported that all is well with the N3FB repeater.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Kevin reported that he sent an email to **WASH** members noting a list of area FM Nets and asking us to mention the 2 Meter Contest and **WASHfest** when we check in.

WASHfest: N3HKQ: Went over expenses to date for prizes, printing and postage. Income is beginning to be received. The Hall rental fee is outstanding.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): Carol reported a net profit from the Christmas Party silent auction. A 50/50 will be held at tonight's meeting.

Public Service (N3RDV): Mark noted the Pittsburgh Marathon scheduled for the first Sunday in May 2009. Volunteers are needed.

Contests (K3VX): **WASH** 2 Meter Contest on January 10. The rules were reviewed in brief.

Newsletter (W3WN): Content is always needed for the **WASHrag**

President's Report (K3VX): Larry reviewed the list of estate items that are still available for sale.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Good of the Order: none

Motion to Adjourn: Made by KB3GMN, and seconded by W3WH. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1950 EST

Program: AB3ED, K3VX and W3WN presented a slide show and discussion of Ham Radio's place in the Vintage Grand Prix.

WASH Spotlight: Leadership



Sometimes, a quick quip doesn't come to mind, but Ye Editor is sure one will as soon as this newsletter is sent out! Running the January Meeting, Left to Right: Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer; Larry Comden K3VX, President; and Bob Timmins AB3ED, VP/Secretary.

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2009 Ron Notarius W3WN

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2009	WA3JPP	KB3NSG	N3XI	WASH FL	WASH VI
AB3ED	WO3Z	KB3NVL	N3ZEL	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF
AB3DL	2008	KB3NVM	N3ZK	W4ZE	
K3GW	AB3EN	KB3ORR	N3ZNI	WASH GA	Silent
K3HCR	AC4KU	KB3PSB	W3JJC	K3OL	Keys
K3VX	AD3AA	KB3QHC	W3LE	KB3IJX	
KB3DCO	AE3DL	KC4WTT	W3RJM	WASH NC	K3EED
KB3FNM	K3AIR	KE8RN	W3RWS	N3RNX	(George)
KB3GMN	K3LGM	NØVLR	W3SRL	WASH NE	KB3ENX
KB3GMU	K3SGT	N1NCZ	W4ZE	NØPEU	KB3FQT
KB3IFR	K3WJL	N3AWF	WA3NB	WASH OH	N3FZ
KE7FD	KA3TWI	N3CZZ	WA3RVD	N8DPW	N3KEH
N2QIV	KB3GMP	N3DFK	WA4ONC	WASH TN	N3OBD
N3BPP	KB3GUZ	N3FPF	WB3CAI	KE3XB	N3SKR
N3FB	KB3HFP	N3KFD	WB4GCS	N3YPB	N3SRC
N3HKQ	KB3HVN	N3MJP	Jane Wagner	WASH TX	N3XFE
N3QMV	KB3KOT	N3PN	Thomas L.	K3LGM	W3ZLK
N3SBF	KB3KQY	N3RDV	Tulley	Jane Wagner	
N3TIR					
NU3S					
W3VFA					
W3WH					
W3WN					

Through January 29th, 2009

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

President's Letter Continued from Page 1



I'm bringing some of the remaining estate items to the meeting so the members can get first chance at them before the items go to our hamfest. I'll have lots of free or nominal priced items including audio/video/RF cables and adapters. There are two refurbished antenna rotators, too!

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

2009 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

February 19 th	WASH Meeting (Rescheduled)	Meeting moved due to scheduling conflict with library
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.

"Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!"Steve Clifford K4GUN courtesy of www.eham.net

"Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! This is K4GUN. I've just fallen out of a tree stand while hunting. I'm injured and I need help."

That is what was heard on the Fauquier Amateur Radio Association repeater in Warrenton VA at 6:15 AM on 5 November of 2008. If you think hearing that on a local repeater was a shock, imagine what it was like to utter those words.

That morning started out as many do for me in the early part of November. I was hunting by myself on a 750 acre farm, about an hour from my home. At dawn, I was climbing up into a tree in which I had hung a stand. I had built a ladder on to the side of the tree by nailing 16" long pieces of 2x4 lumber on to the trunk, using 4" long 16D nails. As I climbed up the tree, one of these came loose and fell to the ground. I was still able to climb to the stand, but you'll see why I mention this in a moment.

Once I reached the level of the stand, I carefully checked it by putting one foot on the stand. I had a safety strap in my pocket and I always put it on before I sit down. As I stepped on to the stand, I thought I had a good hold on the tree when the stand fell away beneath me. I lost my grip and fell 20' backwards to the ground.

Remember that 2x4 with the 4 rusty nails sticking out of it? Well, I found it. It was impaled on my back with all 4 nails sticking into my back. They were roughly at the level of my shoulder blade, with one about 1/4" from my spine. The wind was knocked out of me and my entire body hurt. One nail seemed to be touching a rib. It was in this condition that I placed my "Mayday!" call.

W4NHJ took the lead in coordinating the rescue. He calmly asked about my condition and location. He got on the phone with the Rappahannock County Fire and Rescue department. He frequently came back on the air to ask me more questions about who's property I was on and where on it I was located.

The rest of the club kept the repeater clear. Only at the end did a couple of repeater regulars stumble on to what was happening. They quickly figured out there was a rescue in progress kept the frequency quiet for emergency traffic. Only myself and W4NHJ were on the air. As emergency crews approached, I was on the HT, telling them which pond to pass and which pasture to cut through to find me. In all, it took less than 30 minutes for them to find me.

There were two things that prompted me to get into amateur radio. One was to have reliable communications in the event of a disaster that made conventional communications impossible. Watching what happened on 9/11 and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina impressed that upon me. The other reason is because I like to hunt alone on this farm and there is no cell phone coverage. I wanted to be able to summon help if I ever became injured or needed other assistance. Since getting licensed, I've become involved in many other aspects of the hobby, but the core reasons still exist.

When buying my first radio, Steve W4SHG at Ham Radio Outlet listened to my needs and suggested my first radio should be two radios. One was an HT and the other was a mobile unit capable of both "cross band repeat" and "Locked band repeat". We'll get into the technical aspects of this shortly. He felt this was a measure of safety because the area where I hunt is not very close to any of the active repeaters in the Virginia Piedmont. I've since learned that I can hear three of them but can't reach any of them from the HT from all spots on the property.

The radios I purchased were the Yaesu VX6R and the Kenwood TM708A. The Kenwood is set up in my truck and is run by an auxiliary battery and feeds a Diamond 7900 antenna mounted in a stake pocket mount by Geotool.

Cross-band versus Locked-band repeat:

The Kenwood gives the user two different options in using the mobile rig as a repeater. The first is cross-band repeat (CBR). CBR gives the user the ability to transmit on a simplex frequency in the 70cm band and that signal is retransmitted on a 2 meter frequency. Because the Kenwood has dual TX and RX features, the user can program in a local repeater with the correct input/output offset. All signals from the club repeater that hit the Kenwood are instantly retransmitted on the designated 70 cm frequency.

Locked-band repeat (LBR) is similar, but it does not retransmit the incoming signals from the external source. That makes it more complicated to use. When programming your HT, you must create an odd-offset into a memory setting. Set it to transmit on the 70cm frequency to get the signal to your vehicle but listen directly to the repeater output that you're trying to reach.

So which is better? Well, CBR is easier to set up on the main unit and the HT. It is also a lot clearer on the RX side from the HT. CBR takes full advantage of the superior antenna system of the base vehicle. There is a problem though. CBR is illegal unless you modify your radio. The 70cm link back to your HT is never properly identified unless you set up an automatic ID system. I haven't yet found an easy way to do this. No amount of twisting the words of the rules will change this reality so unfortunately, if you chose to use CBR without devising some form of IDing device on the transmissions from your truck to your HT, you're in violation of FCC regulations.

So what have we learned?

Since this isn't an article about hunting, I'll spare you the comments about tree stand safety and which ones I violated. I will talk about being prepared. Emergencies can happen at any time. They can happen while you're hunting, hiking, fishing, biking or even just driving to the grocery store. Do you have the tools on hand to deal with that? If you live in an urban area, your cell phone may still be the most reliable method of getting help. If your travels take you off the beaten path, that may not be the case. Don't just look in the repeater guide. Get on the local repeaters and figure out which ones are active and which ones are essentially dead. If you're out of cell phone range, have a plan and be ready to execute it.

One big lesson to learn is to actually have your equipment on you. My HT was in my pocket and I was talking on it within 30 seconds of hitting the ground. I knew where it was and I knew the battery was fully charged. I knew my Locked-band repeat arrangement would work because I had practiced with it several times. I knew somebody would be listening to that repeater because I had used it before and knew some of the members. A breakdown at any of these points would have found me sitting at the base of that tree, in a considerable amount of pain for hours until I mustered up the strength and guts to stand up and walk. Had the nails been just an inch to the right, that might not have even been an option and I would have sat for hours until I was missed and a search party was sent.

So how did it end?

When the rescue squad found me, they attempted to remove the board from my back. They asked how my pain tolerance was and started trying to pull and pry the nails out. It didn't work. They gave up and loaded me on my side on to a backboard for transport back to the Fauquier Country Hospital ER. The doctors finally got the board out and took x-rays. I broke no bones and was released in about 5 hours. All I have are bruises, scrapes a lump on the back of my head, a very sore shoulder and 4 puncture marks in my back. In all, I got off very lucky.

I have a new appreciation for amateur radio. We all hear the stories of how an operator helped a guy here or there. I live in the DC metro area and a lot of the local clubs lent a hand during 9/11 and others help in big weather emergencies. Sometimes though, its much more personal. This time, it was my emergency and the radio community came through better than I could have expected. I hope my experience reminds more people about the value of preparedness and the greatness of the people with whom we share this hobby.

California Court Rules that City of Palmdale, CA MUST Allow Amateur Radio Operator's Tower

Terry Graves K7FE, Editor, QRZ courtesy of www.qrz.com

Las Vegas, NV, February 2nd, 2009 — This has been a long and difficult battle for **Alex Zubarau WB6X**. He was granted a permit by the City and then after some neighbor complaints, Palmdale revoked the building permit and ordered him to remove the tower and SteppIR beam antenna. Alex complied.

Today in Los Angeles Superior Court, Alex was vindicated. **Judge David Yaffe** ruled that the City of Palmdale was wrong in forcing WB6X to remove his tower after a valid permit had been issued. Congratulations to **Len Shaffer WA6QHD**, Zubarau's attorney.

Alex had been faced with civil penalties for each day after a City deadline if his tower was not taken down and massive legal expenses if he fought it. A dilemma that must be a ham's nightmare. I wonder if a future ruling will order the City to pay the costs to reinstall the tower and antennas.

The radio amateur community came to the rescue. Many clubs and individuals nationwide donated money for his legal costs to fight this unjust action by the City of Palmdale. Ideas were put forth by many hams and legal talent stepped forward.

The ARRL played an active part in this case. Too often I hear about what the League is not doing. This clearly demonstrates that the ARRL is an active nationwide supporter who does not receive enough thanks for their efforts. ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director **Marty Woll N6VI** was there when the Judge ruled in WB6X's favor today. More importantly, he and Division Director **Dick Norton N6AA** were there, with support from headquarters, throughout this year long battle. Thanks guys.

This was a team effort by many players and the **American Radio Relay League**. <http://www.arrl.org/>

FCC Fines KDKA Radio over "Prank" Contest

Radio Online, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

The FCC announced on February 5th, 2009 that they were issuing a *Notice of Apparent Liability* to radio station KDKA-AM over a talk show "prank" that took place on November 22nd, 2007.

Talk show host Marty Griffin announced a "contest" during his Thanksgiving Day broadcast in which he alleged he would give away \$1 Million to the 13th caller, and "a million an hour" thereafter.

A complaint was filed with the FCC by a listener who alleged that he called the station; was told he was the 13th caller; put on hold for almost 45 minutes; and when he was finally put through to Griffin, grilled with questions about the Thanksgiving holiday. When he inquired about his prize, he was suddenly disconnected, and when he called back, he was informed there was no actual prize.

In responding to the complaint, filed in January 2008, CBS Radio did not dispute the actual broadcast and provided both a transcript and a recording of it to the FCC. CBS, however, contended that there was no actual contest, that it was a "joke" or a most a "harmless prank." CBS further alleged that it was absurd that anyone listening would believe that the station would actually give away that much money; that someone had the cash in the studio inside a briefcase handcuffed to their wrist; that there had been fewer than 13 callers, even though there was evidence of over 50 listeners calling in; or that any other part of the broadcast would be taken seriously as an actual contest. Therefore, they contend that the broadcast was not prohibited under FCC rules.

However, FCC investigations chief Hillary S. DeNigro said FCC regulations prohibit broadcast stations from conducting contests that are "false, misleading or deceptive." The rules, she said, are "intended to protect listeners from the type of deceptive and misleading contest announcements broadcast by Station KDKA."

"Mr. Griffin made no statement on-air to clarify that the offer was a joke or prank, and, instead called the contest 'the real deal,'" Ms. DeNigro said. "The recording and transcript also make perfectly clear that the public was in fact misled by the contest announcements. Mr. Griffin himself admitted during the broadcast that several individuals placed follow-up calls to the station to complain that they had not won the \$1,000,000 prize despite having been the 13th caller."

News reports state that KDKA had up to 30 days to pay the fine or appeal it. KDKA Program Director Marshall Adams was last reported by the *Post-Gazette* as stating that the station was reviewing it's options.

Preliminary WASH Scores, 2008 Pennsylvania QSO Party

Call	CW 160-80	CW	Total CW	Total SSB	QSOS	QSO Points	COs	SECs	Total Mults	Prelim Score	CTY	Club	CLASS	PWR	LOC
WB3CAI		30	30	63	93	108	31	21	52	16,268	ALL	WASH	SO	Q	PORT
W3WN	38	28	66	165	231	283	49	32	81	24,006	ALL	WASH	MS	LO	HOME
N3SH	2	79	81	24	105	146.5	20	34	54	8111	ARM	WASH	SO	LO	PORT
N3SBF			0	374	374	374	58	44	102	38,548	CLA	WASH	MS	LO	PORT
N3ZK	56	96	152	363	515	619	63	49	112	69,928	VEN	WASH	MS	LO	PORT

Information shown Courtesy of the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, the 2009 Pennsylvania QSO Party Committee, Mike Coslo N3LI, and Ed Miske WA3SES

New Zealand's Ministry of Economic Development has announced that the **Amateur Radio service will gain Primary access to 7.1-7.2 MHz after 29 March 2009**, "in accordance with the ITU Radio Regulations published last year."

This change aligns use of the band in ITU-R Regions 1 and 3 with Region 2. (Region 3 includes New Zealand). PIB 21 will be amended by removing the New Zealand broadcasting allocation in this band.

This change means that the amateur radio service will enjoy primary access to the band after 29 March 2009.

The announcement is available at <http://news.business.govt.nz/news/info/rsm/article/9362>

Want to Take a Trip in 2010?

Dragan Acimovic YT3W

Hrane (YT1AD Team Leader) David (K3LP Co-Team Leader) are in the process of organizing two (2) up coming South Pacific DX-Peditions:

1. **ZK3 Tokelau Island** and **T31 Central Kiribati** (Ex-Canton Island),
2. **3D2C** Conway Reef

1st Trip to ZK3 and T31 is planned for April 2010 or end Sept. 2010.

2nd Trip to 3D2C is planned for end of Sept. 2011.

Hrane (YT1AD) and Miki (YU1DW) will travel from 20 April 2009 to 7 May 2009 in the South Pacific islands to organizing these DX-Peditions.

Hrane and Mike will be active from the following islands. The schedule will be as follows:

- 22 April 2009 **5W8A** (YT1AD) and **5WØDW** (YU1DW)
- 22-24 April 2009 **KH8/N9YU** (YT1AD)
- 25 April and 4 May 2009, **3D2AD** (YT1AD) and **3D2DW** (YU1DW) Fiji Island
- 27—29 April 2009 **T3ØM** (YT1AD) and **T3ØDW** (YU1DW) Tarawa Island

More information will be provided soon in March 2009 on <http://www.yt1ad.info/t31>

QSL Manager AC7DX has the following logs "in storage":

3D2LF, 3D2WM, 3V8BB (4/14-24/96) 3YØPI, 4B9CQ, 8P6JQ (UP TO 1992), 8P9GI (JUNE 1986), 9M2HB, 9M8EN, A35SS (1994), AA6LF/KH5, AH2BH/KH9, BV/VR2BH, BV2FB, BV5CN, BV5HJ, C21BD, CR9AJ, DU/WA2PWL, FOØSST, FW/AA6LF, HKØ/KB5GL, HL9KL, HL9KLN, HL9KLT, HL9MM, HS4AMS, JT1AN, JT1AO, KA4IST/KH5, KH5/AA6LF, KC6HA, KC6VE (74-75), KP4AM (10/79-1/81), ON4AB, RAØFA (THRU 1993), RI5A, RWØCWA, S79WHW, T3ØAC, T3ØW, UA3CT(14.226.5 NET ONLY), UB5UAT(86-88), UD6BD(81-87) UI9ACQ, UJ8XCW(83-86), UO5OAG (84), UR1RWX (THRU 1993), UR2RRR (THRU 1993), UWØCW (THRU 1993), UVØEX, UY5PC (THRU 1993), UZ2FWA (14.226.5 NET ONLY THRU 1993), V31A,V31DX (to 97), V31UN, VK4ALF(Hope Island) VK4ALF (Flinders Island) VK4ALF/VK9 (Ashmore Reef), VK4ALF/VK9M (Mellish Reef), VKØHM(1969) VQ9SS (7/90-7/921) VP8BZL, VP8SSI, VQ9CQ, VQ9HB, VQ9SS, VQ9VO (SEPT., NOV. 1982), VR2BH, VR2EW, VS6CT&VS6CT/KP2 (AUG. 1986), VS6CX, VS6DX, XB9Z (3/92) XE2/AA6LF/XF1, XH9Z, XW8EZ, XW8FA (1972-74), XX9CT (2/89), YBØARC, ZK1ALF, ZK1XP, ZK2VE (79/80), ZS3TL(81-82), ZZ2Z

To commemorate the 2008 Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) World Championships, Korea has issued a postage stamp.

The ARDF World Championships, held in Korea and hosted by the Korean Amateur Radio League, were September 2-7, 2008. More than 450 participants from 28 countries came to Korea to compete at the 2008 World Championships. Upon issuance of the stamp, Korea said it hoped that the "World Championships will provide a momentum to stimulate public interest and participation in Amateur Radio."



ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, KØOV, said that Team USA had their best showing ever at the 2008 World Championships: "We had four Top 10 finishes in the two days of fox-finding competition, first with 2 meter AM signals, and then with 80 meter CW signals. ARRL's team faced more than 300 of the planet's best foxtailers that represented 24 other national Amateur Radio societies."

ARDF combines Amateur Radio skills with the map and compass skills of orienteering in a timed race where individual competitors navigate through diverse wooded terrain while searching for radio transmitters. The rules of the sport and international competitions are organized by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

DX News Briefs

Happy Early Valentine's Day! The **K5D Desecheo Island** Expedition went QRV on 13 February on 20 CW and 17 SSB, following some wind-related difficulties transporting equipment and team members via helicopter on Thursday. Most stations are now QRV on most or all HF bands and modes. Early reports from the DX cluster and DX email reflectors is that the pileups are heavy, but that they are very workable from WPA. On-line logs are not yet up due to satellite difficulties, but it is hoped that those will be resolved shortly.



The team approached 10,000 QSO's in the first 24 hours, when only two stations were running! By Sunday, they had broken 26,000 QSO's and were operational with seven HF stations plus 6 meters.

Desecheo is in the Top 10 DX entities world-wide, and has not been fully activated in many years. Because of this, the team has asked that if you have worked the island on a previous band/mode combination, you refrain from calling them on that band/mode to give others a chance. Remember, they should be QRV until on or about the 26th — multiple sources

9A48IFATCA will be active throughout 2009 in recognition of the 48th Annual conference of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controller's Associations in April. QSL via 9A4WW — 9A4WW

SP2JMR and SP2JMB will be active as **3B9/SP2JMR** & **3B9/SP2JMB** from the Rodrigues Islands 1—8 April, and **3B8/SP2JMR** & **3B8/SP2JMB** from Mauritius Island 9—17 April. They will be QRV on all bands. QSL via home calls — SP2JMB

9G1AA went QRV on 14 February, courtesy of PA3DEW and PA3FQX. They will primarily be active in their spare time; look for them at 1600 UTC on 20 SSB. QSL via PA3ERA — PA3AWW

CN2XW will be activated by G5XW 13—23 February. This is a "backpacking" holiday, so he will be running only 100 watts into simple antennas. QSL via G5XW — G5XW

D4C will be activated by YL2KL 11-22 February. He plans to be SOAB in the ARRL DX CW contest, and will be looking for some 30 meter activity as well. QSL via IZ4DPV — NG3K

J7N will be activated by K3TEJ 11—27 February. He plans to be SOAB in the ARRL DX Contest, and he will concentrate on 160, 30, 17 & 12 meters outside of the contest, CW & RTTY. QSL via K3TEJ — K3TEJ

PJ2/PA4JJ will be QRV 31 March — 11 April, holiday style on multiple bands. He plans to focus on 30, 17 & 12 meters, and on RTTY & PSK31. QSL via PA4JJ — PA4JJ

NP2SH will be QRV for the CQ WPX in May. QSL via K9CS — K3VX

QSL Routes

3X5A via G3SXW — VE5RA
 5H3VMB via UA4WHX — W4DN
 5N/LZ1QK via LZ1CL — NN3W
 5X1GS via WB2YQH — EU7SA
 5X1VB via UA4WHX — KZ2I
 7P8BA via ZS6BQI — KZ2I
 7U5CI via OM2CGN — AA5AM
 9J2VB via UA4WHX — NN3W
 AHØV via JI5RPT — N8DX
 BT1ØH via BA4EG — KLØS
 BT1ØN via BA4EG — K5AQ
 C6AKX via WA4WTG — JA1HGY
 C6ATA via WA4WTG — JA1HGY
 C98FA via DL6DQW — KRØO
 CE7AØY via CE7ZK — OH2BF
 CU2X via OH2BH — W4DN
 D4C via IZ4DPV — K3LL/6
 D6ØVB via UA4WHX — NN3W
 ER4ER via RA4LW — W2IRT
 ERØWW via UT3UA — W2IRT
 EZ8BO via EZ8CW — GM4FAM
 H44XX via VE3EXY — VE3EXY
 H4ØXX via VE3EXY — VE3EXY
 JD1BLY via JI5RPT — N8DX
 JX9JKA via LA9JKA — KZ2I
 K7A via K6HFA — BA4DW
 OA4BHY/2 vi DL2JRM — GM4FAM
 OJØB via OH2BH — W2IRT
 P29VLR via SM6CVX — TA3YJ
 T2Ø9DX via JA1KAJ — AA5AM
 TL8CK via F6EWM — N8DX
 VQ59W via KX4WW — AC7DX
 VU4RG via DJ7JC — G4GED
 VU7SJ via JA1KAJ — AA5AM
 XV4BX via EB7DX — K5AQ
 XW1B via E21EIC — W2IRT
 YN2I via KE9I — JA1HGY
 ZAØ/IØSNY via IØSNY — BA4DW
 ZK2QQ via JA1KAJ — AA5AM
 ZK3MW via DJ7RJ — JA1HGY

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



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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 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

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service.



A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA), now Enterprise Wireless Alliance. In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. In 2001, Smith became ITA's President and Chief Executive Officer. While in that position, she was instrumental in the formation of the Consensus Group, a group of public safety and private wireless entities responsible for drafting the "Consensus Plan," a proposed resolution for interference in the 800 MHz band; this was adopted by the FCC in 2004.

Smith returns to the FCC after serving Of Counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers. While there, she dealt with telecommunications matters and provided counsel to numerous entities in the private radio and public safety communities. Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including *Mobile Radio Technology Magazine* and *The Private Wireless Magazine*.

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth: "The appointment of a replacement Special Counsel in this position is of critical importance to the Amateur Radio Service, as the delay in finalizing the appointment stands to undermine in very short order an exceptionally successful and low-cost program of enforcement in the Amateur Service."

Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly successful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value."

When Hollingsworth was appointed as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Harrison said that Hollingsworth "established a visible presence in the Service and very quickly, and with very little investment of Commission resources, using little more than the awareness of an enforcement presence, created strong deterrence against rule violations."

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules," said Harrison. "Ever since Riley Hollingsworth announced his retirement, we have met with the Enforcement Chief numerous times and corresponded with FCC Chairman Martin to ensure this position remains intact at FCC. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that."

All amateur radio operators should know what a millihenry is.

Do you know what a millihelen is?

 The unit of beauty needed to launch one ship!
 (Helen of Troy = Fleet of 1000 ships)

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 22nd, 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



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Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR
WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE
DXCC Card Checker

*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
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MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!



- 1st Prize: Yaesu FT-897D HF/6 M/2 M/70 cm
- 2nd Prize: ICOM IC-92AD 2 M/70 cm D-STAR
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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
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For reservations, or information, Contact:

Kevin Smith N3HKQ at (724) 228-4153, or Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466
E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—PRINT LEGIBLY

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Address: _____

City: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity X \$10.00 = _____

All Tables SOLD OUT

Expected Vendors:

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- Bob & Lissa Spak
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- ITEC
- Phil's Radio & TV
- Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society
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- Skyview RS
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- Whiteside Electronics
- Woodworking by Randy George
- ...and many more!

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



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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)

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<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

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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:

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Dues subject to change without notice

FCC Looking for DTV Volunteers

The FCC is seeking organizations willing to volunteer to host and staff walk-in DTV help centers to serve their local communities. Ideally, these help centers would be in locations easily accessible to the public, and staffed for several hours each day with volunteers trained by the FCC.

The volunteers would primarily assist members of the community with "sign up and set up;" they would have a computer available to help people sign up for coupons online, and would have a television, antenna, and converter box available to demonstrate the converter box set-up process. FCC staff will also provide them with information on local television stations, and publications that can be shared with community members who are seeking more detailed assistance.

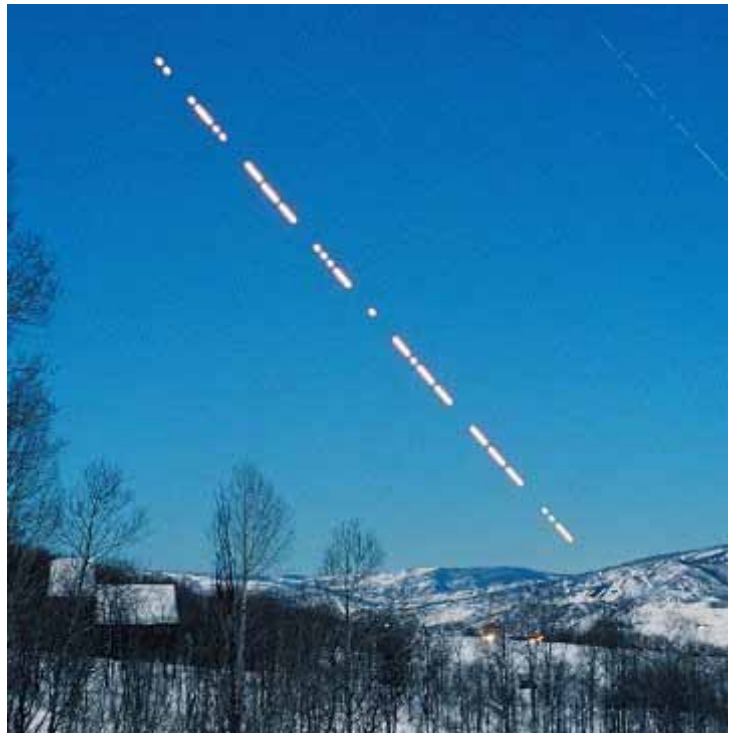
The locations and hours of these centers would be publicly available. DTV transition call centers such as those run by the FCC and the AARP would provide them to members of the local community if it is determined that a caller's needs can not be met over the phone, but could be addressed in person.

Because these centers will need to be hosted, staffed, and equipped, we are asking organizations to volunteer whatever space, time, or materials they can spare to make sure that their communities are ready for the transition.

The FCC will be happy to coordinate these donations and set up training for everyone involved.

Please let me know if your organization is interested in volunteering for the walk-in centers.

— Kevin Doyle, Electronics Engineer
Federal Communications Commission
Philadelphia Office
(215) 741-3017



VENUS VALENTINE

Lately, Venus has been spectacular as our Evening Star," says astronomy professor Jimmy Westlake of Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat Springs, CO. "I took advantage of moonlight on the snow and used the light from Venus, the mythological Goddess of Love, to create this 'Venus Valentine' to the world. The 'dots' were 30-second exposures and the 'dashes' were 3-minute exposures," he explains.

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2009 www.spaceweather.com

The WASHRag

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



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