



# Field Day is Coming

Randy, N3ZK and I will be the Field Day Co-chairmen this year and along with Larry, K3VX we have begun to make plans for this year.

First we are investigating a new site (to **WASH**) at South Park. The South Park site is where the South Hills Brasspounders & Modulators used to conduct their Field Day, when they were active.

If you have Google Earth on your computer just go to 40.01N, -80.0072W to see the location. It is in the open and at an elevation of approximately 1220-ft above sea level.

Larry has applied with Allegheny County to use the site Field Day weekend (June 25-26) and if we are successful, you will hear about it first on the club reflector. We may hear before the April club meeting.

If we fail to secure the site our back-up plan is Mingo Park in Washington County.

Once we know where we will operate, detailed plans will be made.

— 73, Kevin Smith N3HKQ  
Co-Chairman, **WASH** Field Day



N3SH FD 2008 Photo courtesy of &  
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## Next Meeting: April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics for the evening include Field Day Planning, Dayton Hamvention, and Narrow Band Emergency Systems, courtesy Harry Bloomberg W3YJ.

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

My apologies for not submitting anything yet. I thought I'd have an answer from Allegheny County Department of Parks & Recreation about the Field Day site. Not yet!



Also I noticed that the Mingo Observatory has scheduled a star party for the 27<sup>th</sup> of June.

So, I think my contribution will just be a simple list of activities:

- May: Conflict with Dayton Hamvention. No meeting? Or meet a week early?
- June: Field Day June 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>
- July: Family Picnic in South Park instead of meeting July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- August: Meeting How to find that hidden transmitter — August Hidden Transmitter Hunt in conjunction with WACOM date to be determined

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

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# “Seen” at the March Club Meeting



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More pictures on Page 6



## 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	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

## THE LEGAL STUFF

“The WASHRag™” (formerly “The Mariner™”) is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**

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

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

# WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

## Next WASH VE Test April 16<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 6:30 PM, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

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

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

March 28<sup>th</sup> was a typical early Spring Saturday, cool but with promise for a nice day. All in all, a nice morning for **the WASH Breakfast Gang** to gather anew at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month included K3VX, W3WH, N3SBF, KB3GMN, N3IDH, AE3DL, W9UK, K3HCR, WB3CAI & Mary Jean, W3RJM & Barb, W3LE & W3WN. Taking up four tables in the back corner, in between sips of coffee and bites of a hot breakfast, our topics included travel, the NP2SH trip, 2 meter antennas, fiberglass and flagpole verticals, Field Day, greyhounds & sail boats, N3GC, deer eating crows, caimans, Pa QSO Party results, computer networking, taxes, and the Cheesecake Factory... and that's just what we can make out from between the coffee stains.

The end of April will be here before you know it. So why not join us on April 25<sup>th</sup> for the next **WASH Breakfast**, 8:00 AM at **The Beach House**, Library Road (Route 88) in Finleyville, just south of Trax Farms. Hope to see you there!

**Our thanks to** Chris Wells, Rege Flaherty and the Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society for their presentation at the March club meeting. (Hope you guys enjoyed the pizza with us!) A few pictures from the display and their presentation are scattered around the newsletter; but believe me, the quality of the pictures does not do justice to the rigs that was on display!



PARS and several other Antique Radio organizations will once again be holding their Tri-State Radio Fest on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the "Center Stage" venue in Monaca. Detailed information and directions are available on their web site at [http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/files/brochure\\_low\\_2009.pdf](http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/files/brochure_low_2009.pdf)

**Our April meeting** will include a presentation by Harry Bloomberg W3YJ, speaking about the Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System. Anyone so interested is encouraged to bring their laptop with them to the meeting, and Harry will (as time permits) assist with loading the software onto their machine.

**Silent Bark.** As you may have heard, W3WH unexpectedly lost his constant shack companion, Archie Bunker Hill, to sudden kidney failure on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Our sympathies to Bill and Linda.

**Newsletter changes?** You may start noticing some changes in the newsletter in the upcoming months... one or two have already started. A new work computer for Ye Editor presented the opportunity to upgrade to *Microsoft Office 2003* (up from 2000), and the newer version of Office 2003 Publisher gives us a lot more toys to play with... and, of course, a learning curve to figure out all of the ~~unnecessary changes~~ improvements in the new application.

**May Meeting Change?** The regular date for the May **WASH** meeting is also the Thursday that a good many club members will be heading to the Dayton Hamvention for the weekend. This quirk of the calendar happens every few years, and one of the results is a sparse turn-out for our regular meeting. Should we just cancel the May meeting, or reschedule it for the week before (or after)? Think about it, and we'll discuss it during the meeting.

**Field Day 2009** isn't that far off. Something else to start thinking about!

**Welcome to Hollywood!** You may have heard that Little Miss Field Day actually landed a part in a local movie at the beginning of the year. Of course, most of her scenes were cut... but at least she has a few blink-and-you'll-miss-them moments, and a movie credit to her resume. Hey, it's a start...

**E-Mail List Reminders:** The **WASHRag** mailing list is open to anyone who'd like to subscribe to the newsletter. Simply send an email to [wa3sh-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:wa3sh-subscribe@yahoo.com), and the automation should take care of the rest.

And while we're thinking of it... the **N3SH Club Reflector** (which is limited to club members) currently is set, for security reasons, to text only — no HTML, no attachments. Time to open it up a little, or leave things as they are? Let Ye Editor what you think!

## ARRL Sweepstakes CW 2008 Scoring Results for WPA

### Class A: Single Op High Power

K3MD #1 WPA  
 K3VX #5 WPA, #1 **WASH**  
 WO3Z #6 WPA, #2 **WASH**

### Class B: Single Op Medium Power

W3SO (W3YOZ Op) #1 WPA

### Class Q: Single Op QRP

W3WH #1 WPA, #1 **WASH**

### Class U: Single Op Unlimited

N3SD #1 WPA

### Class M: Multi-Operator

W3CG (AA2AD, WA3A Ops) #1 WPA

### Class S: School Clubs

No Entries

## Congratulations All!

## WASHNet 2008 NCS Schedule

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

WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE announced on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, right before WASHFest, that Art Lund NQ3A has been appointed the new DXCC Card Checker for WPA.

Art was present at WASHFest and made many hamfest attendees happy!

Our thanks to Art for making time to attend, and to Bill Moore NC1L up at ARRL Hq. for his help in getting Art's appointment processed in time

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

## Minutes, March 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Acting Secretary, **WASH**

Larry K3VX, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours. There were 36 members and guests in attendance.

A **moment of silence** was observed for Hank Marzina KB3FNM. A donation from the club will be made in Hank's name to Family Hospice.

A motion was made to **accept the minutes** of the February 2009 meeting as published in the March 2009 newsletter. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

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

**Secretary (AB3ED):** No report.

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** No report

**Repeaters (W3SRL & N3FB):** Repeating

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** No report

**WASHfest (N3HKQ):** Kevin thanked KB3GMN, W3WH, and W3SRL for their assistance and club members for supporting the event. We had 329 paid admissions and three of the largest vendors (representing 22 tables) said they were pleased and plan to come back next year.

**Ways and Means (KB3GMN):** 50/50, Show me the money!

**Public Service (N3RDV):** The Pittsburgh Marathon will be Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 150 hams will be needed to provide communications for the event. N3NHS reports that currently around 80 have registered to volunteer. One can register on the internet; [www.pittsburghmarathon.com](http://www.pittsburghmarathon.com). Be sure to indicate what type of equipment you plan to use; i.e. 2mtr HT, dual band mobile, etc. There will be at least one meeting prior to the event to credential hams, answer questions and solve problems.

**Contests (K3VX):** None mentioned.

**Newsletter (W3WN):** Another fine effort.

**President's Report (K3VX):** AB3ED has arranged for Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society President Chris Wells to present after pizza. April's program will be Harry Bloomberg W3YJ to speak about NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging) and members are encouraged to bring a laptop to have NBEMS software installed.

**Old Business:** Nothing mentioned.

**New Business:**

- Kevin Smith N3HKQ and Randy George N3ZK have volunteered to co-chair Field Day. First order of business is to determine where to have it.
- WACOM** has suggested a hidden transmitter hunt followed by a picnic as joint activity for July or August. The club was receptive to the idea.
- Paul Lusardi NØVLR has requested that the club find a new home for the tower trailer.

**Good of the Order:**

- WACOM** has reserved a space in the flea market area of the Dayton Hamvention and invites **WASH** members to stop by and say hello.
- Ed Oelslager N3ZNI presented a WAS certificate for VP2MVX to Bill Hill W3WH.
- Paul Lusardi NØVLR is ordering more orange boxes for go stations and will accept additional orders.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by KB3GMN, and seconded by N3ZNI. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 19:30 EST. Massive amounts of pizza and soft drinks were then consumed.

**Program:** Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society, Chris Wells.

A bogus story about San Luis Obispo County banning Amateur Radio operations that started as an April Fool's Day hoax has continued to circulate as unsuspecting hams spread it on the Internet.

Please help squash this item by advising anyone sending it to you that is **completely untrue**. We don't want any overzealous hams sending inappropriate letters or making angry calls to county officials who, in fact, are very appreciative and supportive of Amateur Radio — Marty Woll N6VI

## WASH Spotlight: VP2MVX WAS



Ed N3ZNI, **WASH** QSL manager, had received verification of contacts via CW with all 50 states during the VP2MVX Dx-pedition to Montserrat.

The certificate was received just before the March 2009 meeting, so was presented there to Larry K3VX and Bill W3WH, two members of the original group.

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2009 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

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

## Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



Join us this month at **The Beach House**, on Route 88 in 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	N3BPP	2008	N1NCZ	WASH FL	WASH VI
AB3ED	N3CZZ	AC4KU	N3FPF	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF
AB3EN	N3DFK	AD3AA	N3KFD	W4ZE	<b>Silent</b>
AB3DL	N3FB	K3AIR	N3MJP	WASH GA	<b>Keys</b>
K3AVQ	N3HKQ	K3LGM	N3PN	K3OL	K3EED
K3GW	N3QMV	K3WJL	N3XI	KB3IJX	(George)
K3HCR	N3RDV	KB3GUZ	N3ZK	WASH NC	KA3NMG
K3SGT	N3SBF	KB3HVN	W3JJC	N3RNX	KB3ENX
K3VX	N3TIR	KB3KOT	W3RJM	WASH NE	KB3FNM
KA3TWI	N3ZEL	KB3KQY	W3SRL	NØPEU	KB3FQT
KB3DCO	N3ZNI	KB3NSG	W4ZE	WASH OH	N3FZ
KB3GMN	N9OKM	KB3NVL	WA3NB	N8DPW	N3KEH
KB3GMP	NU3S	KB3NVM	WA3RVD	WASH TN	N3OBD
KB3GMU	W3LE	KB3PSB	WA4ONC	KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3HFP	W3RWS	KB3QHC	WB4GCS	N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3IAC	W3VFA	KC4WTT	Jane Wagner	WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3IRQ	W3WH	KE8RN	Thomas L.	K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3IVW	W3WN	NØVLR	Tulley	Jane Wagner	
KB3IVX	WA3JPP				
KB3ORR	WB3CAI				
KE7FD	WO3Z				
N2QIV	Mary Jean				
N3AWF	Senk				

Through March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2009 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

April 9 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting: Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System	Harry Bloomberg W3YJ
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VEC Session	Jacqué N3ZEL n3zel@comcast.net
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tri-State Radio Fest	<a href="http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/">http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/</a>
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.tworiversarc.com">http://www.tworiversarc.com</a>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup> Pittsburgh Marathon	<a href="http://www.marathon.central.org">http://www.marathon.central.org</a>
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	May Be Rescheduled due to...
May 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Dayton Hamvention	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org">http://www.hamvention.org</a>
May 27 <sup>th</sup> – June 1 <sup>st</sup>	NP2SH DX-pedition to Plumeria	Contact W3WH or K3VX for more info
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	Field Day Preparations
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	Possible Family Picnic in South Park in lieu of regular meeting, details to be announced
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	Hidden Transmitter Hunt in conjunction with WACOM, details to be announced



## Amateur Radio Volunteers Needed!

Jeffrey Hutzleman N3NHS

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

The marathon's 20<sup>th</sup> running will take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Once again, we have been asked to help.

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

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

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

I look forward to your participation!

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

## More Pictures from the March Meeting — Thanks Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society!



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courtesy of and ©Copyright  
2009 Ron Notarius W3WN

More pictures on Page 2



## Silent Keys



Bill Stump KA3NMG, 86, of Upper St. Clair, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

He was a WWII Veteran having fought in Normandy in 1941. He had his private pilots license and loved flying. He was a long time employee and officer of Equibank. He was on the board of Washington Area Humane Society for 15 years.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Washington Area Humane Society, PO Box 66, Eighty Four, PA 15330.

This was a life well lived and well loved. A life that will be deeply missed.



# Things I Think I'm Getting Excited About

Bill Hill W3WH

- Dayton is only six weeks away, our trip to St. John is only 8 weeks, and...
- The possibility of Field Day in South Park.
- Winter is almost history. Let's hope there's a long Spring before Summer's heat and humidity start to dominate.
- It's almost Miata weather.
- The Pittsburgh Grand Prix is within striking distance.
- The thought of a Sunday evening net that's more than a boring list of check-ins without any comments.
- There have been a few Sunspots lately. Maybe we won't revisit the Maunder minimum after all.
- I just worked VK9LA, Lord Howe Island, for the third time(40, 30 20).
- I just worked Vanatu for another new one!
- Mellish Reef and Christmas Island will soon be on the air and I need them both



To expand a bit on the upcoming trip to St. John in the U.S Virgin Islands, Five Ops are going-K3VX, W3WN, W9UK, K9CS and W3WH. We'll be operating from Paul Jordan, NP2JF and WASH member's Villa named Plumeria. They have a good website and you can check it out on the net. Paul and his wife Alyce used to live in McMurray almost directly across the road from Jack, W9UK.

We'll be arriving there on Wednesday May27th and we'll fly home the following Tuesday after the CQWW WPX CW Contest. Our aim is to be competitive but not to the point of not enjoying our stay in Paradise. We'll be operating two stations during the contest and we'll have a 3 element triband beam along with wires and verticals. Working us from here in SW Pa. should be a piece of cake.

All the flights are booked and the landlord has been paid. Now we have to get our heads together and ship what we'll need well in advance and also the computer geeks (Larry and Ron) need to get our logging arrangements finalized. We'll try to give you an update next month. If you have never seriously considered going to a semi-rare dx location just like Dayton, you should do it at least once.

## MIT Breakthrough Promises Lighter, Fast-Charging Batteries

Sumner Lemon, IDG News Service

### Researchers have developed a way to charge lithium ion batteries in seconds instead of hours

Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed a way to charge lithium ion batteries in seconds, instead of hours, that could open the door to smaller, faster-charging batteries for cell phones and other devices.

Lithium ion batteries are used widely in portable electronics because they can store large amounts of energy. The tradeoff is that the batteries can take hours to recharge, which can be an inconvenience for users who are constantly on the move. A team of MIT scientists, led by Professor Gerbrand Cedar, discovered that lithium ions, which carry electricity in the battery, can move much faster if they are aligned with tunnels that can be accessed from the surface of the battery, according to an MIT statement.

The breakthrough by Cedar and graduate student Byoungwoo Kang is the development of a reengineered surface material for batteries that allows lithium ions to move quickly across the surface of the battery and channels the ions into tunnels. A prototype battery built using this surface material can be charged in 20 seconds or less, compared to 6 minutes for a battery cell that does not use the material, MIT said.

The surface material is not new but is manufactured in a different way. This means batteries that use the faster-charging surface material could be on the market within two to three years, the statement said.

Besides electronic devices, the new material could allow faster-charging electric cars, although the charging speed would be limited by the amount of power that can be accessed over a home's connection with the power grid, MIT said.

The discovery will be outlined in a paper published in the March 12<sup>th</sup> issue of scientific journal *Nature*.



On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Jim Smith WØMJY, owner of Burghardt Amateur Center in Watertown, South Dakota, announced that the company will no longer sell Amateur Radio transceivers and accessories. The company, now called Burghardt Radio Repair, has canceled all backorders.

In an e-mail, Smith blamed the current economic conditions for the change that forced the company "to re-evaluate our goals and direction. We will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business. Our technicians are very experienced and parts inventories are good. Thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to continuing our relationships through our servicing facility."

Jim Smith's son, Mike Smith KCØFTM, told the ARRL that even though the company has had to lay off employees in the past couple of months, "Burghardt will concentrate on service, just like we have been doing since 1973."

Burghardt was founded in 1937 by Stan Burghardt WØIT (SK), as Burghardt Radio Supply. He sold the company to Smith in 1982, remaining active in the company until January 2002.

Burghardt passed away in 2004 at the age of 93.

# FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League & CQ News Service

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the FCC notified Thomas Morrison, AB2PP, of Yonkers, New York, that it was denying his petition concerning an Amateur Radio antenna support structure Morrison had installed at his home (see [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-09-680A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-680A1.pdf)). In his December 2008, petition, Morrison requested the Commission rule that the City of Yonkers did not provide "reasonable accommodation" in its building permit requirements per PRB-1 with regard to the installation of the support structure ([http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1\\_Pkg/prb-1.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf)).

This is the second time Morrison has sought assistance from the FCC in this matter. In 2006, he filed a request with the Commission asking for a declaratory ruling regarding the tower; the FCC denied his request in January 2007. "In that letter [denying your request]," the FCC reminded Morrison in its 2009 letter, "we explained that the Commission's PRB-1 decision requires that local regulation of Amateur Radio facilities must be the minimum practicable to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose, but permits the local authority to determine in the first instance what constitutes a 'reasonable accommodation' based on the its [sic] legitimate purposes, policies and concerns."

The Commission's 2007 letter also noted that the FCC does not have the resources to review all state and local laws that affect Amateur Radio operations and that local tribunals have authority to review local zoning decisions.

In his 2008 letter, Morrison told the Commission that since the FCC failed to act in his favor in his earlier petition, the Yonkers City Planning Board denied his request for a special use permit for his antenna support structure. The City of Yonkers has also indicted him for installing a tower without a building permit, a misdemeanor. Morrison also told the FCC that he has filed litigation in US District Court, requesting that it delay his criminal trial.

"We conclude that these intervening events do not affect our conclusion that, under the Commission's PRB-1 decision, you have not presented an appropriate matter for Commission involvement," the FCC told Morrison. "Because your dispute with the City fundamentally involves whether its building code complies with PRB-1, and PRB-1 recognizes that local tribunals have the authority to handle appeals of local decisions regarding antenna structures, we believe that the matter you inquire about is in the appropriate forum. We therefore decline to act upon your petition."

In October 2007, Christopher Kaczmarek, KB8MLC, of Saginaw, Michigan, petitioned the FCC for a ruling regarding the installation of his Amateur Radio antenna. Kaczmarek told the FCC that he received a notice from the manager of his mobile home community stating the antennas were not allowed and asked for "a ruling from the Commission recognizing [his] right to an Amateur Radio antenna structure." On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the FCC denied Kaczmarek's request for a ruling in his favor, based on the fact that PRB-1 protections do not extend to private homeowner's agreements.

The Commission agreed with Kaczmarek that Section 97.15 of the Commission's Rules provides that "state and local regulation of antenna structures must not preclude amateur service communications, must reasonably accommodate such communications, and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to achieve the state or local authority's legitimate purpose." In its letter to Kaczmarek, the FCC pointed out that it has not, however, extended this policy to regulations promulgated by private parties.

Saying that it has considered this same question twice before, the FCC told Kaczmarek that it "chose not to preempt private land use regulations that restrict the installation of antennas and associated support structures used by Amateur Radio stations. As agreements between private parties are voluntarily established and freely entered into, the Commission is hesitant to interfere with them unless it is shown that private agreements will seriously disrupt the federal regulatory scheme."

Owners of digital voice repeaters must follow all FCC rules applying to all other amateur repeaters. That is the crux of an FCC ruling on what constitutes a repeater station under the amateur rules. Back in December, 2007, Gary Mitchell, President of the Northern California Packet Association, asked the FCC to clarify its definition. He said certain hams operating digital voice repeaters claimed that, because there is a slight lag between the time the receiver begins to receive a digital voice signal and the time the transmitter begins to retransmit it, their machines technically were not repeaters because the retransmissions were not "simultaneous" per the Part 97 definition.

Responding to Mitchell's petition, the FCC ruled on March 27<sup>th</sup> that as long as the transmitter and receiver are active at the same time, with the transmitter retransmitting the signal coming in on the receiver, then the station is acting as a repeater and is thus subject to repeater rules. This means that digital voice repeaters may only operate on bands authorized for repeater operation, within allocated repeater subbands, and are subject to the same coordination provisions as any other repeater.

The FCC has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that proposes authorizing the use of implanted neuromuscular microstimulators on frequencies between 413 and 457 MHz. This includes the 70 centimeter band (420-450 MHz), where amateurs have a secondary allocation and hundreds, if not thousands, of active stations. These devices use radio signals to replace nerve pathways that have been cut or to send control signals to the next generation of prosthetic limbs.

However, the ARRL says there does not appear to be a significant risk of interference, either to or by amateur stations. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met in February with representatives of the organization that developed the devices, and came away satisfied that ham transmissions would not interfere with the devices' operation and that the devices would not cause interference to amateur stations. The League said it would continue to monitor the petition and "take action as appropriate."

## Richard Fisher KI6SN, Named CQ Magazine Public Service Editor

Hicksville, NY April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009) – Richard Fisher KI6SN, of Riverside, California, has been named Public Service Editor of *CQ Amateur Radio* magazine, Editor Rich Moseson W2VU, announced today. Fisher, a veteran journalist, succeeds Bob Josuweit WA3PZO, whose final column will appear in the May issue of *CQ*. Josuweit, who has covered amateur radio emergency and public service communications for *CQ VHF*, and then for *CQ*, since 1996, is stepping down due to increased time demands at his full-time job.

Fisher has been a professional journalist for 35 years, working in various capacities for daily newspapers on both the east and west coasts. He is also a prolific writer on amateur radio matters, writing the "Washington Beat" column for *Popular Communications* and the "Trail-Friendly Radio" column for *WorldRadio Online*. He was previously QRP (low-power) editor of *WorldRadio's* print edition.

A ham since 1965, Fisher enjoys a wide variety of amateur radio activities, including QRP CW operating, outdoor operating, experimenting with antennas and building equipment. He is a co-founder of the Adventure Radio Society.

"I've loved *CQ* since before my Novice days," notes Fisher, "so joining the team will be a thrill."

Editor Rich Moseson added, "While I will miss the close working relationship I have shared with Bob Josuweit for over a decade, and wish him all the best in the future, I look forward to working closely with Richard and to the added benefits he will bring to the column as a veteran professional journalist."

Fisher's first column will appear in the July 2009 issue of *CQ*.



# An Appeal for Solidarity

Wes Wysocki SP2DX

I am writing to you in the name of PZK Headquarters with an appeal for co-operation in addressing the Polish Ministry of the Environment which is carrying out a `process of consultations` before issuing a planned Ministerial Decree on "Installations requiring licensing" and on "Requirements on licensing of installations emitting electromagnetic fields".

Let me state `in a nutshell`: both these Ministerial decrees, if issued as Polish executive regulation, will limit the operation of Polish amateur radio stations operating in the Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite Services almost to nonexistence. The planned decrees treat amateur radio stations on the same level as commercial radio stations (broadcasting and television transmitters, radiocommunication transmitters) requiring measurements of electromagnetic field intensities in various directions of the field radiated by the antenna, registration of technical properties of equipment etc. etc.

I would add that, completely unexpectedly, the Polish Ministry of the Environment - who protects the environment from "pollution and electromagnetic fields", did not ask PZK, representing several thousand "emitters of e.m. energy", about our opinion on this subject.

In view of the possible implications of these envisioned governmental regulations, horror and fright inspired our members to organize a protest action consisting of sending thousands (hopefully) e-mails, letters and facsimile messages to the Minister and personally contacting our MPs, with the aim of making "them" understand the nature of our hobby, the practical and technical difference in operation between amateur and commercial `emitters` etc.

This action of protest is currently taking place in Poland. We, PZK, think that perhaps help from abroad, from our companion amateur radio Societies, the IARU and individual hams, could reinforce and intensify our action. We would be very grateful for your letters sent to the Polish Minister of the Environment, expressing solidarity with Polish hams and, perhaps, explaining the nature of our hobby, which is not only a `private` hobby and leisure activity, but a social service of great importance. We are confident that such international support will make some impression upon the decision makers in our country, no doubt.

That is why we start this request for help with the title "Appeal for Solidarity"...

One never knows if and when some unknowing government employee in another country might come to a similar idea.

In our case, Polish hams would be compelled to use exclusively EIRP levels of 15 Watts, if the expense of providing measurement proofs to the Government would be too high for individual amateurs. The requirement of registering (licensing) technical apparatus, including antennas, limits any attempts at experimentation, the essential feature of our `hobby`.

If you feel you might help PZK by sending a letter, fax or e-mail to the Polish Ministry of the Environment, please do it!

Here are some addresses:

Minister: Professor dr Maciej Nowicki  
 FAX: + 48 22 5792 224  
 Tel: + 48 22 5792 400, + 48 22 5792 222  
 e-mail: [Maciej.Nowicki@mos.gov.pl](mailto:Maciej.Nowicki@mos.gov.pl)

Ministry of the Environment,  
 Department of Environmental Instruments Director: Ms Irena Mazur  
 e-mail: [Departament.Instrumentow.Srodowiskowych@mos.gov.pl](mailto:Departament.Instrumentow.Srodowiskowych@mos.gov.pl)

Ministry of the Environment:  
 Address: 00-922 Warsaw, ul. Wawelska 52/54, Poland  
 FAX: + 48 22 5792 555  
 e-mail: [Minister's.Secretariat@mos.gov.pl](mailto:Minister's.Secretariat@mos.gov.pl)

Ministry of the Environment,  
 Department of International Cooperation, Director: Ms Malgorzata Snarska  
 fax: + 48 22 5792 263  
 e-mail: [Departament.Wspolpracy.z.Zagranica@mos.gov.pl](mailto:Departament.Wspolpracy.z.Zagranica@mos.gov.pl)

## Relatively Easy Solar Power

Ken Beck WI7B courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

### Running Your Station HF & VHF Radios on Renewable Solar Energy

The point of this short article is to show that a station based on renewable solar power is within the reach of any radio amateur for the price of a mobile rig and, honestly, minimal effort. I've taken a 15 Watt amorphous silicon solar panel (shown above) and fitted it to the metal roof above the shack. It's used to trickle-charge a 12V deep-cycle battery. Diode-blocking protects the panel from reverse current as the battery reaches full charge. In direct sunlight, the panel produces 20V unloaded. However, it is able to provide charge even in overcast and rainy conditions. It was purchased from Silicon Solar for under \$120.

The deep-cycle 12V 33 amp-hours (AH) SLA absorbed glass matt (AGM) battery with the finished wire set is displayed above. Although it is capable of working in a range of temperatures, maximum efficiency is maintained by keeping the battery inside. AGM technology allows 99% of produced hydrogen and

oxygen gases to recombine in the battery, while acid leaking is mitigated. It was purchased at a Battery-Plus mall outlet for under \$80.

In typical use, the battery is charged-up by a mean 10% of its AH capacity per day. This allows just under 10 minutes of 100% transmit capacity at 100W on my Kenwood rig for total renewal. For emergency use (non-diurnal renewing) this can be extended to 60% of battery capacity (19.8 AH) or about 55 minutes of transmit without detrimental effect.



## WRC 11 Agenda Announced

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

The next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11) is scheduled for fall 2011. These periodic conferences of the Member States of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) consider allocations to the various radio services — including the Amateur Radio Service — and evaluate what new technologies and applications should be addressed by future conferences.

The agenda for WRC-11, developed by the delegates at the last WRC in Geneva in 2007 (WRC-07), was formally adopted by the ITU Council in 2008. There are 25 agenda items addressing potential new or revised spectrum allocations to existing services. **Of most interest to amateurs** is agenda item 1.23, **"to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz** to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services."

"This agenda item is the highest item on my long term priority list," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price N4QX. "We are fortunate that WRC-11 presents an opportunity for a new secondary allocation in the medium waves. While the outcome in 2011 is far from certain, our experience in other bands — most notably 30 meters — indicates Amateur Radio's compatibility with certain other services as a secondary user."

Price said that some WRCs have posed great challenges for Amateur Radio, with blocks of spectrum potentially at risk. "This was the case at WRC-03 and WRC-07, which posed a very real potential reallocation of portions of the 40 meter band in Region 2 to HF broadcasting," he said. "The agenda for WRC-11 does not pose any threats to Amateur Radio as clear or as overt as those faced in prior years." Price and ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling WB3ERA, are monitoring developments on a number of other agenda items that could affect Amateur Radio if they take unanticipated turns, including:

- Agenda item 1.14, considering requirements for and implementation of the radiolocation service (radar) between 30-300 MHz.
- Agenda item 1.15, considering possible allocations between 3-50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
- Agenda item 1.19, considering regulatory measures to enable software-defined and cognitive radio systems.
- Agenda item 1.22, examining the effect of emissions from short-range devices.

"Oceanographic radar is perhaps our biggest defensive issue," Price said. "Fortunately, its proponents, at least domestically and at least at this time, are acknowledging that sharing with Amateur Radio would be problematic."

WRC-11 is tentatively scheduled for October 24-November 18, 2011, in Geneva.

## DX News Briefs

The dates for **K4M Midway** have been set: 9 - 19 October. The dates were picked to provide maximum operation for the 11 days, including two weekends. Plans are for 6 stations in two separate locations, with 20 meter operation planned around the clock. More details at [www.midway2009.com](http://www.midway2009.com) — N4XP, WB4JTT



Look for **C91FC** 9 - 13 April, 80 - 10 meters, SSB PSK RTTY & CW. QSL via ON4CJK. More information at <http://www.c91fc.be> -- 425 DX

I2JJR will QRV "holiday style" as **9H3JR** 10-14 April, mainly SSB on 40 and 17 meters. QSL via I2JJR — I2JJR

**JW/F8DVD** will be QRV from Svalbard 18 - 26 April, primarily on 20 & 40 meter SSB. QSL via F8DVD — F8DVD

**S79UCX** is QRV through 17 April, "holiday style," 10 -80 meters, primarily CW. QSL via DL7UCX — NG3K

**8R1AD** will be activated by N7EAA & KE7TBB 20 April - 3 May. They will be primarily on 20 meters, CW SSB & PSK-31, looking for "young ham operators." QSL via N7EAA — OPDX

Eleven special event stations will be active from Poland on 16-19 April to commemorate the World Amateur Radio Day (18 April): **3Z0WARD, 3Z2009WARD, HF2009WARD, HF84WARD, HF9WARD, SN0WARD, SN2009WARD, SP0WARD, SP2009WARD, SQ0WARD** and **SQ2009WARD**. QSL via SP2FAP. More information at <http://www.ward.pzk.pl/> — SP2FAP

Look for **TK/F6BUL** from Corsica, 8 - 15 April, QRP 40 - 10 meter CW. QSL via F6BUL — F5NQL

**DP1POL** is the personal **Antarctic** call of DL5XL. He will be at **Neumayer 3** until early 2010, QRV mainly on 20 & 40 CW. QSL via DL1ZBO — OPDX

Also look for **TK/I25FDD** & **TK/IW5ELA** 20 - 24 May, SSB & CW 40 - 6 meters. QSL both via home calls -- I25FDD

**XU7MDY** will be active from Cambodia 9 - 21 April, 80 - 10 meters. He will be mainly CW & SSB with some digital modes. QSL via OH4MDY — NG3K

IW4BLZ will be active on 80-6 meters as **OY/IW4BLZ** from the Faroe Islands on 27-29 July, and as **TF/IW4BLZ** from Iceland from 31 July to 11 August. QSL via IW4VLA — IK3AES

SV1JG, will be active as **8Q7SV** 29 April - 5 May. Activity will be mostly CW and digital modes on all bands. QSL via SV1JG — OPDX

**8P6DR** is QRV through 24 April "holiday style" 160 - 10 meters. He's getting married on 8 April! QSL via G3RWL — VA3RJ

## QSL Routes

3W2BV via JA9BV — VE1DX  
 4L4MM via ON4CFI — W4DN  
 4U1UN via HB9BOU — JA1HGY  
 5B4/RW9UP via UA9PC — AA5AM  
 5N/LZ1QK via LZ1CL — W2IRT  
 7P8BA via ZS6BQI — KR0O  
 9Y4AA via AI4U — K6GEP  
 A43DLH via DK7PE — DE1DXX  
 A45WD via YO9HP — W2IRT  
 A5100A via F9DK — JA1HGY  
 C6APG via K4PJ — W4DN  
 C91LW via UY5LW — KR0O  
 E27EK via E211ZC — EU7SA  
 E51QQQ via JA1KAJ — K6GEP  
 EL2DX via K8SJP — W2IRT  
 ET3JA via OK3AA — SM3DXC  
 FK5RE via HA8IB — K6GEP  
 FM5CD via F5VU — JA1HGY  
 HI3K via KB2MS — W4DN  
 J7N via K3TEJ — JA1HGY

OH0R via OH2PM — W2IRT  
 P40ZB via K9WZB — W4DN  
 PS0F via W9VA — KZ2I  
 S21DX via EB7DX — JA1HGY  
 T33ZZ via JA8BMK — W2IRT  
 TO3R via RW3RN — PA0WRS  
 TO4X via N2ED — W4DN  
 TT8JT via E73Y — W2IRT  
 V51XG via DL8AL — SM3DXC  
 VK9DNX via DJ2MX — BA4DW  
 VK9DWX via DJ2MX — BA4DW  
 VK9RS via I1HYW — N8DX  
 VP2ETN via JN1NDY — JA1HGY  
 VQ9HB via NK0S — NK0S  
 VU7SJ via DL7GFB — W4DN  
 YB1ALL via W2FB — K6GEP  
 YS4M via K9GY — GM4FAM  
 YS4RR via K9GY — GM4FAM  
 Z29KM via EA7FTR — KR0O  
 ZK3AH via DL2AH — K3LL



**Congratulations to Randy N3ZK for a great showing in the 2008 CQ World Wide WPX CW Contest!**

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.



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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**

The Ferry Building, 127 S. McKean St., Butler, PA 16001  
Phone: 724-431-0400      Fax: 724-431-0401  
[Lazaroff@nauticom.net](mailto:Lazaroff@nauticom.net)



## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

In response to an investigation by the FCC, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) has taken action to prevent further use of Amateur Radio frequencies by unlicensed officers. Any Amateur Radio equipment in the cruisers of unlicensed officers was removed by order of IMPD Chief of Police Michael T. Spears.



According to the FCC, some IMPD officers were using the radios to supplement their normal communications channels, including using amateur frequencies for tactical communications during drug surveillance. As part of its inquiry, the FCC reminded the IMPD of the large number of tactical channels available on a secondary basis to police departments from the public safety pool of frequency allocations.

"We are pleased that IMPD has put a stop to this unlicensed activity," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The investigation by the FCC, coupled with the expedient cooperation and correction of the problem by the IMPD, eliminates a situation that had raised serious concerns in the amateur community."

The FCC stated they would monitor the situation and follow-up appropriately if needed.

Two US Senators — Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine — have introduced a bill in the Senate that would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission. The inventory would include those frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies.

The proposed legislation, known as the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act, states that the NTIA and the FCC would be required to inventory of the spectrum no later than 180 days after the bill becomes law; after the initial survey, follow-ups would be required every two years. Both agencies would need to prepare a report listing the licenses or government user assigned in the band, the total spectrum allocation, by band, of each licensee or government user (in percentage terms and in sum) and the number of intentional radiators and end-user intentional radiators that have been deployed in the band with each license or government user. Additionally, if the information is applicable, the report would be required to show the type of intentional radiators operating in the band, the type of unlicensed intentional radiators authorized to operate in the band, contour maps that illustrate signal coverage and strength and the approximate geo-location of base stations or fixed transmitters. The report would then be sent to the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and to the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The bill also mandates that both agencies create a centralized portal or Web site that lists each agency's band inventories. This information would then be made available to the public via an Internet-accessible Web site. Both agencies would also be required to make all necessary efforts to maintain and update the inventory information "in near real-time fashion and whenever there is a transfer or auction of licenses or change in allocation or assignment." The bill includes an exemption for licensees or users if they can demonstrate that disclosure would be harmful to national security.

"Our public airwaves belong to the American people, and we need to make certain we are putting them to good use in the best interests of those citizens," Senator Kerry said. "Last year's 700 MHz auction resulted in \$20 billion for the treasury and will create greater opportunity and choice for consumers and businesses that need broadband service. We also took a great step forward when the FCC established a way for unlicensed devices to operate in white spaces. These two initiatives are evidence of how valuable spectrum is and how it serves as fertile grounds for innovation. We need to make sure we're making as much of it available to innovators and consumers as possible."

"Used by millions of consumers and countless businesses on a daily basis, wireless technology is a proud part of America's innovative history and a key to its economic future," Senator Snowe said. "But as radio spectrum is already a scarce yet valuable resource in many areas, we must ensure that this public good is allocated and used efficiently for the needs of the American people. This legislation is the first step to addressing comprehensive spectrum reform and will work to enhance advanced communications services to keep people on-line and in touch."

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC  
Continued  
on Page 12

# The AT Golden Packet Annual Event

**APRS RF communications over 2000 miles** Bob Bruninga WB4APR

**Update:** As of 5 April, we have resolved 2 more sites. GD-Hill in PA and the WV site at White Rock Cliff.

**Purpose:** To field enough amateur radio emergency communications teams on mountain peaks in the Eastern USA to be able to communicate packets and APRS messages from end-to-end of the Appalachian Trail. Normally considered a 2000 mile hike, the RF path is on the order of only 1200 miles and we hope to do this in only 14 hops.

**When:** Hopefully in the afternoon of Sunday 26 July to coincide with the ending of the Biennial Appalachian Trail Festival July 17 - 24, 2009 at Castleton State College, Rutland, VT. Also, the weekend before, (18/19th) is the CQ World Wide VHF Contest, and the Scouts On-Target exercise. Those two opportunities are great pre-cursors for checking out The Golden Packet digipeater sites a week in advance as well as Field Day on June the 27/28th. For the 26<sup>th</sup> July Event, we are considering:

- 0800 to 1100 Station set up
- 1100 to 1200 Station and checkouts
- 1200 to 1300 Golden packet attempts from both ends
- 1300 to 1400 Station-to-station messaging
- 1400 to 1500 All other AT hikers and stations
- 1500 to 1600 Any other APRS or packet stations
- 1600 to 2000 Tear down and go home

**Volunteers:** We need lots of volunteers for the 15 or so stations along the route, not just stations, but hikers, PR people and other demo stations. It would be nice to get an amateur radio table at the AT Festival to recruit some hikers into amateur radio. Showing them what we can do with our HT's should have some interest to a few of them. Most day hikers are really into GPS, so why not APRS too? . To sign up as a volunteer, please contact wb4apr at amsat dot org. Please see Volunteer list.

**APRS Background:** Although the APRS network provides full coverage along the Appalachian trail on the USA APRS channel of 144.39 MHz, this channel is a very heavily shared asset concentrating on local coverage and support. Long haul communications is not possible nor encouraged due to congestion. . This event will use a special uncongested frequency just for this one day. Using amateur radio from mountain peaks is part of the peak2peak and SOTA projects, but to reduce the risk of RF congestion, this event is planned to avoid any VHF contest weekend.

## Significant APRS Characteristics For This Event:

- [1] AT stations will message with a traceable path LINK7-7 for messages
- [2] AT stations will use The shorter non-traceable HOP7-7 for positions
- [3] Stations should be able to see 7 adjacent nodes in both directions
- [4] Being linear links, there will be few dupes.
- [5] Packets will be regenerated at The midway point for 7 more hops
- [6] D700/710s can easily be portable LINKn-N and HOPn-N digi's.
- [7] Phase-I: will be to get The end-to-end Golden packets successfully
- [8] Phase-II: After Golden packets Then station messages are welcome
- [9] Phase-III: After Station messages Then other trail hikers are welcome
- [10] Phase-IV: Beyond that, other stations off The trail are welcome

**Station & Route Planning:** For maximum range between hops, the path from Georgia to Maine ZIG/ZAGs as shown above-right between mountain ranges rather than trying to shoot straight along the AT ridge. The height-above-average-terrain between the peaks along the trail ridge is only a few hundred feet which limits line of sight distances only in The 20's of miles. .

But zig/zagging from the AT peaks to adjacent mountain ranges and back, takes advantage of thousands of feet difference in heights above average terrain across valleys and allows us to make the distance in only 14 hops.

We need lots of input from VHF contesters to tell us if these links are solid for FM.

**Station Callsigns—SSID's:** Since there are 15 stations, we will use the 15 SSID's in sequence for the convenience of knowing the relationships between sites along The way. The sequence is South to North which is the usual direction of through-hikers who begin the trek in the spring in Georgia and hope to end by the Fall in Maine.

**Station Text:** Initially, each station sets his position text to include his FCC call and his estimated event-end-time. Something like WB4APR till 26/1400EDT (meaning 1400EDT on The 26th). But as he begins to see other stations, he can show what he is seeing by including their X# in his text. Example: WB4APR till 26/1400 QSL12345689ABC which means WB4APR can see other stations as far south as 1 and as far north as 12 ("D" in Hex) and all stations in between.

**Frequency:** Packet and UHF coordination: Finding a clear frequency for the weekend will be a severe problem. One possibility would be to team up with the ATV Balloonists and operate on 144.34. Then see if they could launch an emergency communications balloon on The same date, with a 144.34 uplink and some other downlink. Then their balloon could also demonstrate emergency comms by relaying the AT packets to all observers.

The experiment would only be for one day on a weekend in July, maybe they wouldn't mind?

For voice coordination, The APRS FM simplex channel of 445.925 will be used. In addition, maintaining another APRS station on The national 144.39 can also be used for coordination.

**More Information** can be found at <http://www.aprs.org/at-golden-packet.html>

**FCC  
Continued  
from Page 11**

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, said that the bill is in its infancy and that there is no corresponding legislation in the House of Representatives: "The text of the proposed legislation neither exempts Amateur Radio nor considers the frequency-agile and unfixed nature of most Amateur Radio operations. This bill merits watching and presents amateurs an opportunity to educate their Senators about the nature of our stations and our Service."

The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, and Roger Wicker, a Mississippi Republican.



# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application/Renewal for 2009



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Members Only:

- I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector
- I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

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

ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

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

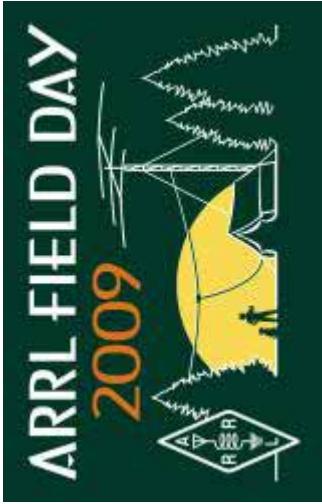
Additional Family Members at the same address (\$8 per family member)

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

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

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

Dues subject to change without notice



## Field Day Memories

From the K3WNX Web Site, a remembrance of Field Days past

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 1991, 2005, 2009 Walt Schwarz K3WNX

## The WASHRag

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N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

[www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)  
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