



Field Day Plans

Randy George N3ZK, Larry Comden K3VX, and I visited this year's Field Day site at South Park on Sunday evening of May 3rd to look it over and gauge where antennas will be strung. While at the site you have the feeling you are in a remote site as there is nothing but hills and trees in all directions yet this site is a stone's throw away from Corregan Drive. We have a lot of room to spread out and there are convenient trees and telephone poles located around the site to hang wire antennas. There will be a port-o-john on site but other than that there are no other facilities except what we bring. That means water, power, canopies, lighting; you name it will have to be brought on site by us.

For the radios we will again use battery power, but we will have WB4GCS' large generator as well as the club's generator to operate lights and computers. There is a fire pit nearby so a campfire is likely as long as there is no ban due to dry conditions. We are still thinking about the details for food but it's a safe bet that covered dish items from everyone will be welcome. In the next few weeks Randy and I will announce the details for food so that everyone can plan accordingly. Finally we have permission to be on site over night and there is plenty of room for campers if you care to sleep over.

Also pictured in this article are ideas Randy George has for tee shirts and a banner to hang somewhere at the Field Day site. Randy will have more information about the tee shirts in the next few weeks.

This year we will again run 3A with three HF stations and a GOTA station as well as operate weak signal VHF/UHF and satellite. Randy will have a 160-meter through 10-meter wire for one HF antenna and we have the club's Butternut vertical for 80-10-meter. As of now we still need two more HF antennas. We will let everyone know about radio and computer needs in the next few weeks but it would be nice to have some PSK31/RTTY capability as well as packet. I hope I have been able to whet your appetite for Field Day this year. If you have thoughts on this that you would like to share, please email me at n3hkq@amsat.org.

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

Next Meeting: May 21st, 2009

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, May 21st, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Topics for the evening include Field Day Planning, Breezeshooter's Hamfest, NP2SH, and more .

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

Mild Solar Season Predicted

Although its peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928, predicts an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center and funded by NASA.

The panel predicts the upcoming Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since number 16, which peaked at 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The panel also predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles — or solar minimum — occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Cycle 23 and the start of Cycle 24. If the December prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun also led the panel to a consensus that the next cycle will be "moderately weak."

— Wayne M. Lees M1WML

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“Seen” at the April 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 2010 Committee	Kevin Smith N3HKQ, Chairman Carol Danko KB3GMN

Activities & Operating Events
Ways & Means
Field Day 2009 Coordinators

Bob Timmins AB3ED
Carol Danko KB3GMN
Kevin Smith N3HKQ
Randy George N3ZK

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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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WVN

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Ron Notarius W3WVN
3395 Rosewood Drive
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

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

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 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 July 16th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 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, October 15th, 2009
 Thursday, January 21st, 2010
 (tentative) Thursday, April 15th, 2010
 Thursday, July 17th, 2010

April 25th was a lovely day for the monthly gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** to gather anew at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. Unfortunately, filling in for Ye Editor who was unable to attend, our mild mannered reporter for this great metropolitan newspaper, er, newsletter... never told us who was there or what was said. If we get the information, we'll put it in next month's newsletter. Sorry about that!

The end of May is approaching. So why not join us on May 30th 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! And... we will once again need another mild-mannered reporter for the details, as the NP2SH operators will be toiling away in the CQ Worldwide Prefix Contest (CW) from Plumeria in lieu of breakfast!

Our thanks to Harry Bloomberg W3YJ for his fantastic presentation on the Narrow Band Emergency message System. It's very impressive to see him hold his HT up to his laptop, no physical connection required, and see the software receive and decode letter perfect copy. Something to think about for future communications use!

Ye Editor wishes to apologize for the lateness of the newsletter. Good intentions got cast aside by work and home demands. And he's finding out that Microsoft really hosed Publisher 2003 when compared to Publisher 2000... bad enough that reverting to the old software may just be in the cards, but that's another story.

The 2009 NP2SH DXpedition takes place at the end of this month, starting right after Memorial Day, and continuing into the beginning of June. As a side-effect, as soon as the May newsletter is put to bed, the June newsletter will get started, in hopes of getting it out to everyone prior to the 2009 Breezeshooter's Hamfest. So if you have something for the newsletter (article, story, pictures, rants) don't hold back, send it on it's way!

Speaking of the Breezeshooter's Hamfest, yes, plans remain in place to once again hold our annual Picnic at Breezeshooters. Details are on Page 10, although those of you who've been with us in the past pretty much know what to expect. Obviously, with Ye Editor being along on the NP2SH trip, if anyone can assist in gather information on who's bringing what, it would be appreciated!

Field Day is just a few weeks away. What information we have is on Page 1, and there will be updates at the next two club meetings. If you can join us, at our "new" location in South Park, please contact our Field Day leaders and give them an idea of when you can be there, so that we can coordinate operators accordingly. It's been a few years since the Brasspounders operated from the old South Park Model Airplane Field, so in many ways this will be a "new" event — but it promises to be a lot of fun this year!

And on a similar note, don't forget that the **2009 Pennsylvania QSO Party** is looming on the horizon!

It's been a long day, a longer night, the newsletter is very late, and we're running out of things to say. So, remember: Keep Ye Editor informed on what's going on with your Amateur Radio life, or **you're going to start hearing about his daughter... and his grandson.** You've been warned!

April 16th VE Test Results

WASH had a VE examination session on Thursday, April 17th at the Peters Township Library. It was quite successful, with four candidates becoming four new Technicians!

Our candidates were:

- Mary J. McKinnon KB3SQZ
- Douglas A. Lawrence KB3SRA
- Thomas S. Tully KB3SRB
- Christopher J. Stott KB3SRC

Congratulations to one and all, and we look forward to hearing you all on the radio.

Many thanks to our VEs who gave their time to make this session a success: (back row) Ed N3ZNI, Ron W3LE, Rich N1NCZ, (front row) Mark N3RDV, and Don AE3DL.

Since the candidates came and went and were not photographed, this time we present instead a photo of our VE's!

— 73, Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL



The FCC has issued an NPRM seeking to raise the fee for a Vanity call sign from \$12.30 to \$13.40 for a 10 year license. In the past, the fee has been as high as \$70!

WASHNet

2009 NCS Schedule

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

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

Minutes, April 9th Meeting

Bob Timmins AB3ED, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

Larry K3VX **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:03 hours. There were 22 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 March, 2009 meeting as published in the April 2009 newsletter. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): read and accepted

Secretary (AB3ED): no report

VE Report (N3ZEL): VE's needed for April 16th testing session. Contact N3ZEL if available

Repeaters (W3SRL & N3FB): Frank reported that N3FB/R is working to specifications.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): No report

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): Richie N3SBF reported (on Carol's behalf) that tonight's meeting will include a "Show Me the Money" group financial contribution session.

Public Service (N3RDV): Hams needed for the Pittsburgh Marathon. Dave N3IDH reported that WACOM needs Hams for a 5K event in Bentleyville.

Contests (K3VX): Larry reported that we are waiting for approval from Allegheny County Parks to use a South Park site for Field Day.

Newsletter (W3WN): Ron reported that he is transitioning to new page layout software in order to give the **WASHRag** an updated look. The transition will be noticeable in future issues.

President's Report (K3VX): Larry led a discussion about the May 14th meeting conflicting with travel plans to Dayton. The group favored moving the date to either May 7th or May 21st, pending availability of a room at the Library

(Editor's Note: Meeting Moved to May 21st)

Old Business: Bill W3WH reported that the club has applied for liability insurance through ARRL. The application is pending.

New Business: Harry W3YJ mentioned that he has NBEMS software available for download onto members computers after tonight's program.

Good of the Order: N/A

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Bill W3WH and seconded by Mark N3RDV. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1935.

Program: Harry W3YJ presented an informative program on the use of Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System software. A demonstration of an on-air, digital, 2-meter QSO with KB3WXI concluded the program

WASH Spotlight: MS Bike Ride



Bob AB3ED (L), Brian KB3SPE (R), along with Allan KB3SPD, CJ KB3SRC, and Ron W3WN provided communications support for part of the Pittsburgh leg of the Phil Keoghan Ride Across America, on behalf of the Multiple Sclerosis society on May 2nd. About 50 registered bike riders accompanied Phil from Robinson Town Center for several miles as he started that day's part of the trip, before returning to the mall via the Montour Trail. The local MS Society chapter was grateful for our assistance, the day before the Pittsburgh Marathon!

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

AB3ED	KB3ORR	NU3S	WASH FL	WASH VI
AB3EN	KB3SRB	W3LE	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF
AB3DL	KE7FD	W3RWS	W4ZE	Silent
K3AVQ	N1NCZ	W3VFA	WASH GA	Keys
K3GW	N2QIV	W3WH	K3OL	K3EED
K3HCR	N3AWF	W3WN	KB3IJX	(George)
K3SGT	N3BPB	WA3JPP	WASH NC	KA3NMG
K3VX	N3CZZ	WA3NB	N3RNK	KB3ENX
KA3TWI	N3DFK	WB3CAI	WASH NE	KB3FNM
KB3DCO	N3FB	WO3Z	N0PEU	KB3FQT
KB3GMN	N3HKQ		WASH OH	N3FZ
KB3GMP	N3QMV		N8DPW	N3KEH
KB3GMU	N3RDV	Mary Jean	WASH TN	N3OBD
KB3HFP	N3SBF	Senk	KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3IAC	N3TIR	Jane Wagner	N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3IRQ	N3ZEL		WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3IVW	N3ZNI		K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3IVX	N9OKM		Jane Wagner	



So, why was the Google home page showing Morse Code characters on April 28th?
It was their way of recognizing Samuel F.B. Morse's birthday!

Through May 6th, 2009
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2009 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

May 21 st	WASH Meeting	Rescheduled date
May 27 th – June 1 st	NP2SH DX-pedition to Plumeria	Contact W3WH or K3VX for more info
June 6 th	N4H Special Event Station for Henry Hudson 400 th Anniversary	http://www.usps.org or contact N2ZT or N3HOW for more information
June 7 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.net
June 11 th	WASH Meeting	Field Day Preparations
June 27 th – 28 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 9 th	WASH Meeting	Possible Family Picnic in South Park in lieu of regular meeting, details to be announced
July 12 th	North Hills ARC Hamfest	http://www.nharc.org
July 19 th	Somerset ARC Hamfest	http://www.k3smt.org
July 26 th	Portage ARC Hamfest	http://hamfair.com
August 13 th	WASH Meeting	Hidden Transmitter Hunt in conjunction with WACOM, details to be announced
August 23 rd	Skyview ARC Hamfest	http://www.skyviewradio.net
September 5 th	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	http://www.w3pie.org
September 10 th	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
September 12 th	Butler County ARA Hamfest	http://www.w3udx.org
October 3 rd – 4 th	California QSO Party	
October 8 th	WASH Meeting	Pa QSO Party Preparations
October 10 th – 11 th	Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html
October 24 th – 25 th	CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB	
November 7 th – 8 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 12 th	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
November 28 th – 29 th	CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW	
December 4 th – 6 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 12 th – 13 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org

Too Err Is Human

Francisc Grünberg YO4PX

courtesy of www.eham.net

That aphorism by an ancient Roman philosopher contains an unexpressed thought: that man, recognizing his error, can correct it, surpass himself, and approach perfection.

And here is another term, circulated by the operators of rare DX stations who reside in exotic locations and by those who spend time and money on DXpeditions and contest operations. It is **'European behaviour,'** this term is used by our friends across the pond and assumes too much.

"European behaviour" negatively characterises the conduct of amateurs from more than 50 European nations, so different in origin, culture, language and temperament, that it is difficult to find for them a common denominator.

These operators firmly allege that in most every occasion the much-trumpeted amateur spirit of friendship and international co-operation is forgotten, when arises Hamlet's question, To work or not to work a new one?

No wonder, say those exasperated amateurs, that many DXpeditioners, bored by the silly hodgepodge produced by European operators, prefer to turn their antennas toward the USA or Japan to maintain a reasonable QSO rate.

No wonder many amateurs resident in rare countries, stuck on believing amateur radio is still a hobby, hide on frequencies less monitored by DX'ers or simply go QRT when found and cornered by Europeans. They probably don't feel obligated to devote their leisure time to making thousands of rubber stamp QSOs and filling out thousands of QSL cards because destiny threw them onto one of the rare islands on the DXCC countries list.

Blinded as we might be by our continental patriotism, we are forced to admit there is quite a lot of truth in the term. If someone compiled a classification of the manners on the amateur bands, he would be forced to put the European countries at the bottom of the list. We would have to console ourselves that YO amateurs aren't distinguished amongst their continental partners by deliberately or accidentally QRM'ing DX stations. The jamming champs are elsewhere, and we DX'ers know them. And, for the most courteous operators we look to Japan.

Amidst the mayhem that constitutes "European behaviour" an attentive listener can discern a few, distinctive, types. Risking oversimplification, let's examine these DX'ers. They may occasionally provoke a smile, but too often spoil our fun.

THE MONOLOGIST

Prefers the microphone, but can sometimes be found on CW. He is usually equipped with very reliable and up to date equipment, with which he monitors the bands for his victims. It does not matter too much for him who will be his interlocutors, or what they say to him, he has too little patience to listen. The only role others have is to listen to what he says, despite its lack of content.

Hopefully, the Monologist has VOX, so when the victim has nearly fallen asleep, he can save himself by shouting "Break!" and pretend he has to go QRT. After doing this it is recommended the victim does not show on the bands for the next few hours in case the Monologist finds him again.

The Monologist type of amateur is not generally interested in DX contacts or QSL cards, but still calls DXpeditions and involves them in long QSO's against their will. The illness of the Monologist is a chronic one, and has to be regarded rather like a natural calamity, which is beating you without any possibility of self-defense.

THE IMPATIENT

This one is under continuous strain. He is driven by an unhealthy curiosity. The Impatient posts himself on the DX station's transmitting frequency, despite the operator indicating he is listening up, and then starts to ask questions. He immediately wants to know the DX station's call, his QTH and QSL information, and in the process disturbs everyone trying to work the DX station.

With a bit of patience the Impatient could hear the DX station provide this information every 10 or 15 QSOs, and spinning his VFO a bit he would find where others are calling. In nets the Impatient ignores net control's instructions and carries on calling, even though he is not located in the country requested by net control. He calls regardless of the situation, usually in the middle of your QSO.

The best expedient, and one not usually advised by DX'ng experts, is to give him the information he wants, accept him, let him join the QSO, put him on the list. Otherwise he may continue to call and cause endless disturbance.

THE OMNISCIENT

This one knows he can teach everybody else. If he thinks an operation is failing he will not hesitate to interfere, nursing and lecturing the ignorant, setting the situation right from his vast store of knowledge and experience.

Let's say a novice at working DX dares to ask something on the transmitting frequency of a DX station working split. That is enough for the Omniscient: vigilant and deeply worried about the destiny of the operation, he takes prompt action. He remains on frequency for hours and hours continuously sending or shouting "Up!" to reprimand intruders. His QRM completely covers the DX station and nobody can tell whom the DX station is answering.

Despite his well-meaning intentions, one prefers hearing the novice's short questions than the "teacher's" repeated reprimands. There is no remedy for this "helpfulness". Hopefully he will get bored and move on to another crowded spot on the band. Attempts to silence him only redouble his claims of eminence.

THE REVENGER

Tortured by feelings of frustration, by a real inferiority complex. He hasn't learned to be a good loser. Net control didn't call him first? The DX station didn't hear him, or, perhaps, some QRM when he called?

That is enough for the Revenger; he switches his transceiver to the tune position and puts an endless carrier on the frequency. Like an incandescent nail it pierces the ears and brains of those digging out the weak DX station with their AF and RF levels at maximum.

The Revenger injects various noises into his microphone - ever hear a vacuum cleaner on HF? Some Revengers are music lovers; they love to broadcast piano music on DXpedition frequencies.

If you fail to answer the Revenger's call because you want to work DX, and answer a DX station, the Revenger waits for you to finish. Now he wants to work that UA9 you just finished with and if you do not give up the frequency you have occupied for the last hour, a heavy artillery barrage commences. Linear pushed beyond its limits and beam turned in your direction, the Revenger ruthlessly QRMs with a keyer stream or CQ'ing endlessly.

In a rage, the Revenger is completely irrational. Dialogue is useless. The only solution is to QSY to another frequency, mode, or, better still, to another band.

THE AGGRESSIVE

In many respects related to the Revenger, but his attacks are direct, often without a call sign, and not under the guise of a CQ and noises.

The Aggressive works with high power, but unfortunately doesn't use it very successfully. He calls desperately, for him the pile-up is a matter of life and death, a place where common sense goes untapped. If other well-equipped operators on frequency dare compete with him, he feels hurt. His reputation and his honour are endangered, and he will defend it his way.

Discarding civility, the Aggressive splashes competitors with abuse. Polyglot in this field, he knows how to offend each in their mother tongue and indulges in chauvinist outbursts. He relies on the last word being his, because no one else will degrade himself to reply in like manner.

Continued
on page 7

SUPER-DX-MAN

Endowed with the most sophisticated equipment, his linear and antennas are custom made to his pretensions.

He usually lives in desert areas so he can surround his house with a thicket of towers and antenna systems, approaching in scale those of a broadcasting station.

As he has nothing more to achieve on the higher bands, he indulges in 80 and 160 metres, stretching many thousands of metres of wire in all possible directions. He gives 59+20 dB signal reports to antipodean stations not even heard by others on the band. His signals bend S-meter needles as he breaks the hugest pile-ups, working the DX station on his first call. He doesn't even trouble to give his call sign, simply says, "Hello, Jackie," and Jackie, who is on an uninhabited island in the middle of the Pacific, immediately recognises his voice.

Super-DX-Man is on the Honor Roll for ages and has worked everything workable. He doesn't like to chat with amateurs other than Super-DX-Men of his size, if someone else calls him he seems to have corked ears. He ceaselessly wonders how others have the patience to stay in nets for long hours to work a single DX station, as he boasts that not one of his 360 countries has been worked with anyone's help.

It seems Super-DX-Man cannot fathom some people struggle to work with 10 watts, stretching out antennas each night, because they haven't permission to erect a poor ground plane on the roof of their flat. He only really becomes annoying when he stops to ask the operator of a DXpedition "What's new on Kingman Reef?" or "How's the weather on Peter I today?"

THE DISCONTENTED

He can be found in the stands of all the sport stadiums. In amateur radio he has a fondness for criticizing DXpeditions.

He suffers omniscient kibitzer syndrome: he knows better than the player how the ball should have been passed and how the goal should have been kicked, better than the coach how the team should have been composed, and better than the zebra when a penalty should have been granted. But a run from one end of the field to the other would bring on convulsions.

From his comfortable chair the Discontented ham loudly declaims the DXpedition. He doesn't like the operators (they are lazy, deaf, incompetent); he doesn't like their organization (they didn't turn their antennas toward his QTH when he thinks the opening occurred); the DXpeditioners have materialistic preferences (they worked ten Japanese stations in a row, they requested, "North America only" - Aha, these QSO dealers!!! They want green stamps!!!); they didn't keep their word (starting later and departing earlier than announced).

No matter the DXpedition crew assembled and then dismantled 20 antennas in extremes of heat or cold; made tens of thousands of QSOs; slept fitfully in tents; and made their meals from canned goods: all that plus paying, handsomely, for the honour of satisfying the Discontented - this all doesn't matter.

If he missed the expedition his verdict is final and irrevocable: they are blunderers. An expedition was a success only if the Discontented got it in his log on nine bands and in all modes.

THE LID

The name given to the amateurs whose working methods leaves much to be desired.

Lids are very numerous and often originate from those amateurs who got their licenses without too much trouble, and who did not bother to go through a learning process before getting on the air.

The Lid never understands what is happening, tunes up interminably on a DX station's frequency, not because he wants to disturb anybody, but without first checking the frequency.

The Lid doesn't listen before calling CQ, and gives the impression he doesn't have a receiver because he doesn't hear "QSY" from the people he QRMs, nor hears the weak DX station on frequency. He calls the DX station on his transmitting frequency, despite the DX station stating he is listening up, because the Lid doesn't know what "up" means. The Lid calls the DX station when he comes back to someone else, or even while the DX station is transmitting.

If the DX station catches a suffix only and states he is only listening for that station you can be sure that some Lids will call, even though their call signs bear absolutely no resemblance to that suffix.

The Lid continues to call the DX station even when the DX station comes back to him, because he doesn't realize it. When he eventually understands he will ask the DX station to repeat his call sign several times. Then he wants all the other details, as he has not heard when the DX station repeated them periodically.

The European Lid answers "CQ DX" calls from other European stations, because he doesn't know what "DX" means. On CW the Lid sends much faster than he can read, causing the other station to send his name and QTH several times, because he refuses to request "QRS."

The Lid inadvertently works split, not to keep his frequency clear, but because he doesn't realise his clarifier has to be switched off.

The Lid will call you when you are calling in a pile-up, and worse still, will start the contact without waiting to see if you have come back to him, or will end it without knowing whether you have logged him or not. He confuses YO with YA and Bucharest with Budapest.

The Lid is able to send CQ 25 times and his call sign only once. The inventiveness of the Lid, in that he does everything upside down, is inconceivable and exhaustless.

Now, to end this enumeration, let's try to discern why there are so many Lids on the amateur bands - because we are pretty sure the majority of amateurs branded with "European behaviour" are not Revengers or the Aggressives, but Lids.

Is it human nature to make mistakes? Of course, especially when one is not prepared. It begs the question why the European novice does not learn about on-air procedures before using his new call sign.

After passing the examination he shouldn't be left to his own devices to find out about procedures on the air. He should be advised that he should initially listen for 90% of the time to avoid finding himself suddenly in the middle of crowded amateur bands, exposing himself to the risk, unintentionally, of the shame and reputation of a Lid.

It was different aforesaid. Long before getting his transmitter license the amateur started by being a short wave listener. For many months he only listened to the contacts of other hams and undoubtedly he enjoyed it, since some amateurs, for some reason, remained SWLs. (Let's not forget those living under dictatorial regimes, who would like to become transmitters and aren't allowed to do it.)

Reception was the best school for learning our written and unwritten laws. Then came the day full of excitement for the first QSO made from the club station, under the instructor's attentive guidance, then other contacts, the first DX stations, the participation in contests. And, only when the young amateur accumulated some experience, and he built his own station started to work from home with his own call sign.

The Internet offers study and work tools to help get novices on the air while avoiding the epithet "lid." They should use them diligently - knowledge is not innate.

Errare humanum est, perseverare diabolicum (To err is human, to persevere is devilish).

Too Err Is Human

continued from Page 6

Update from the W3 QSL Bureau

Fred Laun K3ZO, ARRL Incoming W3 QSL Bureau

The Bureau has recently received cards for K3KT. Regretfully, his local club reports on QRZ.com that he became a Silent Key in June 2008. A search of the SSA Death Index reveals that he died on 28 Jun 2008.

The QSLs will be passed on to an elementary school teacher who uses them as instructional materials with her students.

Unfortunately shipping costs are rising, and returning cards to the senders thru the bureau system makes ARRL members who use the outgoing bureau in effect subsidize the expense of shipping cards being returned to senders.

Hereinafter we will not be returning cards to the senders for Silent Keys, calls-not-in-FCC-database, license expired and operator-does-not-want-bureau-cards. We will continue to return cards which came to this bureau by mistake, and cards where an error has been made in the call sign. We will also forward cards to the correct bureau when the destinee has changed his call sign since the QSO in question was made.

I do not pass cards headed to a valid call sign on to our teacher friend until the licensee of that call says that he does not want his cards. I ask our sorters to return cards to me rather than trashing them. As a result the storage space around here is reaching capacity, but if I can get answers from about 20 licensees that space will be freed up substantially. Unfortunately a few contesters ignore my e-mails or don't answer my letters, or tell me they are sending funds and then don't.

But hey, I love the work. We are cleaning out our files with the help of our sorters, and the current burst of activity is the result of the "D" and "N" sorters doing a great job of cleaning things out at their places.

I do ask the sorters to check the FCC database when they receive a card from me and there are no other cards for that call. That way we hopefully will avoid having cards cluttering up space when they cannot be delivered. The file cleaning going on is my effort to clean files which have many years of activity stored. In order to keep the sorters from having to do too much work I have asked that they send me the old cards they can't deliver. Then I do the checking.

As you might expect not all sorters are created equal, so I pass all cards on to some of them, and for others I have lists here which I consult before passing cards on to them.

In Addition:

- This Bureau regularly receives cards for "JT1CO via W3HMK". W3HMK is NOT the QSL manager for JT1CO. If anyone knows the source of this mis-information, please try to have it corrected.
- This Bureau continues to receive cards for "HI8A via K3WGR". For the last several years Chikin, the former HI8RV, has held the call sign HI8A. He does NOT have a QSL manager and handles his QSLing duties himself. Our understanding is that he does answer bureau cards, so we forward any such cards to the Radio Club Dominicano bureau.
- This Bureau continues to receive large numbers of cards for KP2/W3AVO. Please be advised that the QSL manager for this operation is JA3AVO, the home call of the operator. We forward such cards to the JARL Bureau.
- This Bureau continues to receive QSLs for "4LØABC via K3PD" and "4LØHQ via K3PD". Sadly, we lost our good friend Pete, K3PD who was also our "H" suffix sorter for this Bureau, to cancer on 19 June 2008. Therefore if anyone knows of any sources of information which still list K3PD as manager for any station, it would be appreciated if you try to get this mis-information corrected.
- This Bureau continues to receive QSLs for NP3U. It should be noted that calls with the prefixes KP3, NP3 and WP3 should go to the Puerto Rico QSL Bureau, Box 9021061, San Juan, PR 00902-1061
- This Bureau continues to receive cards for "VQ9X via W3MR". Please note that W3MR handles VQ9 cards ONLY for his own VQ9 call sign, VQ9MR. We would appreciate that anyone knowing the source of this mis-information try to get it corrected.

Editor's Note: Additional corrected QSL routing information, for cards mis-directed to the W3 Incoming QSL Bureau, courtesy of Fred, are listed in the QSL Routes table in the next column.

DX News Briefs

Members of **THE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS** will again be QRV from St. John, US Virgin Islands as **NP2SH** from May 28th through June 3rd, 2009.

Operators include W3WH, K3VX, K9CS, W9UK & W3WN. The NP2SH team will be on the air during the CQ WPX CW contest using the NP2SH call. We will activate other modes and the WARC bands outside the contest hours using KP2/ individual calls. In addition, St. John is also listed on the RSGB's IOTA "Most Wanted" list (NA-106) and is in grid square FK-77. QSL all 2009 NP2SH & all individual operators with SASE via K9CS, except KP2/W3WN via W3WN — NP2SH 2009 Team.

The Vienna International Amateur Radio Club **4U1VIC** will operate with the special event call of **4U1WED** in June 2009, to celebrate World Environment Day. They will also operate as **4U3ØVIC** from July through December 2009 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN Vienna International Center in Austria. QSL both calls via 4U1VIC — KH2S

The Federation of Radio Sports of Azerbaijan will be heading to Nagorno Karabakh 28 May thru 1 June. Look for them as **4K3K** and **4JØK**, and they will be active in the CQ WPX CW. QSL both via RW6HS — 4J5T, 425 DX

EJ6DX will be EI6DX QRV from Inis Mor, Aran Islands (EU-006) 22-24 May and 29 May to 1 June. He will be QRV in the CQ WPX CW on 40 meters. QSL vial RX3RC, direct or via bureau — EI6DX, 425 DX

3D2YA will be QRV courtesy of JA1NLX from Mana Island (OC-121, 29 June through 3 July. He plans to operate CW & RTTY 80—10 meters including the WARC band. QSL w/SASE via JA1NLX — OPDX

DX'ers who have been patiently awaiting the reactivation of **Glorioso** (AF-011) will soon be rewarded, as the long-delayed DXpedition is anticipated to be QRV 9—28 July. Call sign to be announced. They anticipate activity on 160—6 meters, as many modes as possible. QSL via F5OGL — F6AJA

A65BI is the new call for F5LTB/9Q1TB (he asked for A65BK but did not receive it). He will be in France most of May, but expects to be QRV by the end of the month, primarily on SSB. QSL via SM5DJZ — 9Q1TB, OPDX

PY2WAS is ill, so the **PQ8W** operation has been cancelled. — PY2HS

AHØAA will be QRV in the CQ WPX (SOLP) by JR2SCJ. QSL via home call — NG3K

E7DX will also be QRV in the CQ WPX (M/S). QSL via E77E — NG3K

As will **YM3D**, op TA3D, QSL via TA3D direct only — NG3K

EV6ZK will be the annual special call to celebrate Byelorussia Independence Day, July 3rd. QSL via UA3FDX — VA3RJ

QSL Routes

3D2CY via YT1AD — EU7SA	KH2/KI3DNN via JI3DNN — K3ZO
3V8BB via YT1AD — W5TFW	LTØH via EA7FTR — K3ZO
4K9W via DL6KVA — W2IRT	NP3X via EA7FTR — K3ZO
4O3A via AI4U — VE3EXY	KHØ/N3YS via JE1SYN — K3ZO
5H3EE via DL4ME — PY5EW	SO8A via SP8YB — K3ZO
5L2MS via PA3AWW — W4DN	T27OU via N7OU — WO2N
5U5U via TLØA — GM4FAM	T3ØXX via JA8BMK — GM4FAM
6V6U via K3IPK — K3IPK	T88CD via JH2BNL — JA1HGY
6W/K3IPK via K3IPK — K3IPK	TO3R via RW3RN — KZ2I
AHØ/WK3D via JF2MBF — K3ZO	V26B via KA2AEV — K3ZO
AO3K via EA3GHZ — K3ZO	VP8DLQ via ON5NT — KZ2I
CO6XN via N3ZOM — K3ZO	WH2D via K3UOC — K3ZO
ER3R via ER3DX — SV1DPI	WH2V via JF2VFN — K3ZO
ER4DX via RA4LW — PY5EW	XW1B via E21EIC — KRØØ
ER7HQ via ER1FF — SV1DPI	YB2UTX via YC2YTC — KRØØ
ET3JA via OK3AA — JA1HGY	YI9KT via SP8HKT — N5ZM
FM1HN via NI5DX — K3ZO	YS4M via K9GY — W2IRT
FM5WE via K4FJ — K3ZO	YT6A via AI4U — VE3EXY
J7N via K3TEJ — K6GEP	ZD8UW via G7VJR — W4DN
K5D via N2OO — K6GEP	ZPØR via W3HMK — VE3EXY

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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FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

The FCC dismissed a petition filed by Richard Essen, N6CX (ex-AB3IQ), of Silver Spring, Maryland, regarding the issuance of a vanity call sign to Allan Corderman. In its decision, the FCC said that Corderman's application for his new call sign was valid and the call sign was "properly granted" by the FCC.



On December 22, 2006, Winfield Brantley of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, surrendered his call sign — W3ZD — when the FCC approved his application for a new call sign. On December 10, 2008, Allan Corderman, WB1EFN, of New Orleans, Louisiana, applied for W3ZD, stating he was a close relative of a former holder of the call sign. Section 97.19(c)(3) of the FCC rules regarding vanity call signs state that while a surrendered call sign is not available to the vanity call sign system for two years, certain relatives of the deceased former holder or clubs (in certain circumstances) may apply for the call sign in the two year "grace period." Corderman stated in his application that he was the son of Roy C. Corderman, now deceased, and a former holder of W3ZD.

In January 2009, Richard Essen, N6CX (ex-AB3IQ), of Silver Spring, Maryland, petitioned the FCC, asking that the Commission reconsider Corderman's application for W3ZD, saying that the application should not have been granted because the exception in the vanity call sign system's rules apply only to close survivors of the most recent person to hold the call sign, and not to close relatives of any deceased prior holder.

The FCC disagreed with Essen's petition, saying that "[w]hen the Commission adopted Section 97.19(c)(3), it stated that it was granting priority to 'close relatives of deceased holders,' and did not say that the priority applied only to close relatives of certain deceased holders. The rule has always been interpreted to afford priority to close relatives of any deceased former holder."

According to Section 97.19(c)(3), "Except for an applicant who is the spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law, and except for an applicant who is a club station license trustee acting with the written consent of at least one relative, as listed above, of a person now deceased, the call sign shown on the license of [a] person now deceased is not available to the vanity call sign system for 2 years following the person's death, or for 2 years following the expiration of the license grant, whichever is sooner."

The Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club (DLARC) of Nazareth, PA is presenting "An Evening with Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH" on July 9th, 2009, at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA.

The speech will be at the Packard Laboratory Building on campus at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$3.00 in advance, \$5.00 at the door, and is expected to sell out.

Advance Tickets are available by mail from DLARC, PO Box 3026, Easton PA 18043-3026. Include a check and a #10 SASE.

Talk-in on 146.700 (-) PL 151.4

More information & maps available at <http://www.dlarc.org>, or contact Bob Green KE3AW (610) 432-8286 ke3aw@arrl.org

— Bob Green KE3AW

Has Roadway found the tower yet?





55th Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & Computer Show

Sunday, June 7th, 2009 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Butler Farm Show Grounds,
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\$5 Per Person Admission Donation

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Or mail reservations to 1010 Willow Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Table reservation cut-off date May 20th, 2008

More information on prizes and tables, please contact:

Bob Benna N3LWP hamfest2009@breezeshooter.com (412) 366-0488

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at
<http://www.breezeshooters.net>



Eleventh Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest

Sunday, June 7th, 2009

from approximately 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

At the **WASH** Club Location

Somewhere Out in the Flea Market

(Look for us in the vicinity of the Grandstand, along the fence, near the Wash House)

*A tradition at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest for over 21 years on & off,
and a WASH formal or informal activity for the last 11!*

Spend the morning meeting your fellow WPA & Regional Hams, buying or selling stuff & dodging roving golf carts full of Breezeshooters — then join your fellow **WASH** members and our invited friends for lunch, friendship, bragging rights, and (if set up and operational) operating N3SH/3 from the Flea Market — with the Tower Trailer (if brought)!

This will be a "Pot Luck/Covered Dish" Picnic — The Club has traditionally provides the burgers and hot dogs; we're asking everyone coming to bring buns, soft drinks, water, a side dish, snacks, fruit, cookies, dessert, ice, or whatever they can.

Contact Ron W3WN [w3wn](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org) at [n3sh dot org](http://n3sh.org) to coordinate who's bringing what.

There is no charge to attend (outside of bringing something to share) but the picnic is not open to the general public, only **WASH** members (including their families), friends & invited guests.



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 →
(check one))

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

- | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership: | \$20.00 | \$15.00 | \$10.00 | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age: | \$10.00 | \$7.50 | \$5.00 | \$2.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership: | \$10.00 | \$7.50 | \$5.00 | \$2.50 |

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

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

License Class: _____

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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:

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c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
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Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456*

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Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

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Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- \$39 in US
 Age 65 or older, \$36 in US
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Dues subject to change without notice

What do you think of Randy's T-Shirt design for club members to wear at Field Day?

Shirt Image courtesy of Randy George N3ZK & Kevin Smith N3HKQ



“Well, We Can Put The Butternut Here...”

Randy N3ZK & Larry K3VX scoping out the N3SH Field Day site in South Park

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2009 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



The WASHRag

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3395 Rosewood Drive
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