



## Pa QSO Plans ?

The Summer has but a few weeks to run it's course, and as always, some things are inevitable:

- Corn Roasts are popular
- Zucchini is everywhere
- Hamburgers, hot dogs, and all sorts of sausage are being burned on backyard grills
- Kennywood Park is full of teenagers
- The Pirates have spiraled into another losing season
- The Steelers are preparing for another run at the Super Bowl
- Kids are being dragged to the mall by parents anxious for school to start
- And Amateur Radio Operators throughout Pennsylvania and surrounding states are putting together their plans for the upcoming 2009 Pennsylvania QSO Party this October.

So, what are your plans for this year's contest?

**WASH** hasn't made a hard core full blown effort as a group since we sponsored the Special Event / Bonus station, setting a high standard that few have yet achieved. But although we've been a little more laid back the last few years, that doesn't mean that the plans aren't being put in place.

We haven't received early word yet on who will be activating the club calls in this year's endeavor, or who will be going portable or mobile... but then, it's early yet.

W3WN plans to run a Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter station again this year from Allegheny County, and already has a few operators committed to help. Interested? Or do you want to do something else?

Let us know, and we'll help get the word out.

It's a fun time for all operators. Don't miss out!

More information in next month's newsletter...

### Next Meeting: August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

Larry K3VX will be making a short presentation on fox hunting antennas. Topics for the evening include PA QSO Planning, and more .

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3SH/R and 443.650(+) N3FB/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

### President's Letter

Gang,

1. I'm bringing a simple lightweight 3 element 2 meter Yagi to the meeting as an example of antennas used for fox (hidden transmitter) hunting.
2. WB2HOL's web site is the source of much good info. See TAPE MEASURE BEAM OPTIMIZED FOR RADIO DIRECTION FINDING 3 element yagi [http://home.att.net/~ileggio/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://home.att.net/~ileggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm), 2 element yagi [http://home.att.net/~ileggio/projects/rdf/snif\\_bm.htm](http://home.att.net/~ileggio/projects/rdf/snif_bm.htm), SIMPLE ADJUSTABLE PASSIVE ATTENUATOR, [http://home.att.net/~ileggio/projects/rdf/p\\_atten.htm](http://home.att.net/~ileggio/projects/rdf/p_atten.htm) 555 Time-Difference-Of-Arrival RDF <http://home.att.net/~ileggio/projects/rdf/tdoa2.htm>, and SIMPLE Time-Difference-Of-Arrival RDF <http://home.att.net/~ileggio/projects/rdf/tdoa1.htm>
3. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like N3TIR has obtained a fox to hunt for an August event.



He has mentioned outfitting an HT with an ID'er to substitute for a more "polished" fox.

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

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## VEC July 16<sup>th</sup> Test Results

On Thursday, July 16th, WASH conducted an exam session at the Peter's Township Library.

We had two candidates, both successful, and have two new Technicians:

- Dustin M. Diesing KB3TEI
- Emily L. Graham KB3TEJ

Welcome!

And many thanks to our VEs for attending and making this session possible:

Bob W3RJM, Rich N1NCZ, and Ed N3ZNI.

— 73 Jacque Gosselin N3ZEL  
VE Team Coordinator



Emily KB3TEJ with proud Dad, Gary  
AB3HO

VEC Photos courtesy of and  
©Copyright 2009 Bob McCloskey  
W3RJM



Dustin KB3TEI

*Is Tractus Eram Intentionally Left Vestis*

## 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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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 October 15<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 6:30 PM**, at the **Peters Township Library**, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: [n3zel@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)

Future test dates: Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
 Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
 Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
 Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
 (tentative)

The FCC has announced that the fee for a Vanity Amateur Radio call sign will increase by \$1.10 to \$13.40 effective September 10<sup>th</sup>. This will affect both new and renewal applications for Vanity call signs.

MFJ Enterprises announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies effective July 31.

According to MFJ, Cushcraft — makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community — will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. "We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000. The company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vectronics.

Jue said that the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ's Amateur Radio product line. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue.

The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line — 662-323-5803 — to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.

July 25<sup>th</sup> was another cool and comfortable morning summer morning, with the local corn appearing daily for sale along with other local produce. However, one should never buy groceries on an empty stomach, and with that in mind, **the WASH Breakfast Gang** to gathered once again at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month, the gathering included KB3GMN, N3SBF, W3VFA, K3SGT, K3VX and W3WN. The morning's talk across the table included Cash for Clunkers, Omni's, car insurance, the PVGP, St. Petersburg, frox hunts, Field Day disasters, engine repairs, Breezeshooter's picnic, deer, gorilla tripods, 16 hour air flights, passports, roach motels, flying to Israel and Europe, elder hostels, gardens, VLS Soccorro, houseboats on Lake Mead, calling CQ and 10-10 numbers. And that was just what got written down.

So, what did you miss out on? Find out at the next Club Breakfast will be Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. Come down & share a cup of coffee & a good time with us!

### Club Members in the news:

- Paul Jordan NP2JF was involved in solving an interference problem in the USVI that got written up in the ARRL Letter. The story is reprinted alongside the DX news on Page 8
- Frank Sanns N3XI and his private research into fusion also made the news again, this time in the Trib. You can find the article at [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s\\_633276.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s_633276.html)
- And speaking of things in the news... the current owners of the Grant Building may be real whizzes at office management, but when it comes to the Morse Code, the don't know Pittsburgh! <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09193/983408-53.stm>

With 146.955 located in temporary quarters, N3FB reminds everyone that at least for a few days, **the link** between 146.955 and 443.650 **is also down**. The link radio was removed after the equipment move and should be back in service any time now, possibly by the time you read this.

**News! We need club news!** This column is for YOUR items of interest as well as general club information. If you don't let Ye Editor know (and yes, Ye Editor knows he doesn't spend enough time on the air as it is, please don't remind him!), instead of hearing about Mark WB3CAI's great job upload amateur radio related PVGP videos to you tube, or K3SGT's trip to Russia and Eastern Europe as part of his anniversary present to his wife, you are going to see pictures & read about how Ye Editor's daughter, Little Miss Field Day, appeared on Baseball Quiz at PNC Park one Sunday & won a player autographed memento! You have once again been warned!

## WASHNet

### 2009 NCS Schedule

08/02 — Dave N3DFK	10/25 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
08/09 — Kevin N3HKQ	11/01 — Dave N3IDH
08/16 — Bill W3WH	11/08 — Bob AB3ED
08/23 — Harold K3HCR	11/15 — Frank N3FB
08/30 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF	11/22 — Dave N3DFK
09/06 — Dave N3IDH	11/29 — Kevin N3HKQ
09/13 — Bob AB3ED	12/06 — Special Guest!
09/20 — Frank N3FB	12/13 — Harold K3HCR
09/27 — Dave N3DFK	12/20 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF
10/04 — Kevin N3HKQ	12/27 — Dave N3IDH
10/11 — Bill W3WH	01/03 — Bob AB3ED
10/18 — Harold K3HCR	01/10 — Kevin N3HKQ

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

# Minutes, June 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

Larry K3VX, **called** the meeting **to order** at 19:00 hours. There were 20 members and guests in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Ed N3ZNI and seconded by Carol KB3GMN to **accept the minutes** of the May 2009 meeting as published in the June 2009 newsletter. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee reports:

**Treasurer (N3RDV):**

**Secretary (AB3ED):** July meeting will be a picnic at South Park. Bob will secure permit for same grove as last year (Harbor).

**VE Report (N3ZEL):** next session July 16. Examiners needed for session.

**Repeaters (N3SH & N3FB):** Frank N3FB reported that his machine is online and functioning properly. Steve W3SLR reported that the .955 machine is not id-ing properly. The call sign prefix is being clipped.

**FM Net Report (N3HKQ):** . no report

**Ways and Means (KB3GMN):** Carol reported that a Pecuniary Procurement and Redistribution Program will be held at the end of the meeting.

**Public Service (N3RDV):**

- Dave N3IDH thanked members who participated in the Bentleyville Walk for Alex on Memorial Day weekend.
- Mark N3RDV reported that Randy N3ZK and Paul NØVLR completed the MS 150 Bike Ride.
- The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix will be July 18 and 19.

**Contests (K3VX):** Larry mentioned the VHF Contest this weekend June 12

**Newsletter (W3WN):** The Editor professed his customary modest assessment of the club newsletter.

**President's Report (K3VX):** Larry K3VX announced that **WASH** will hold a Fox Hunt in association with WACOM in August. Bud N3TIR is assembling a fox and several antennas.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Kevin N3HKQ Field Day Report:

- A truck is needed to haul the tower trailer from NØVLR's home to the Field Day Site in South Park. Richie N3SBF volunteered.
- We need tables. Several members offered to assist with this need.
- Set Up will be Friday 10:00 am and Saturday 10:00 am.
- The logging software will be demonstrated after the meeting.
- Members are encouraged to operate at the Field Day Site, especially during the Midnight Shift.

**Good of the Order:**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Ron W3WN, and seconded by Carol KB3GMN to adjourn. The motion was voted on and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.



# WASH Spotlight: R/K3SGT



Want to be DX? Eric K3SGT took his wife Barb for a Baltic cruise to Russia and Eastern Europe for their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Here they're at the Gilded Room of Catherine the Great's Summer Palace in Pushkin. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2009 Eric Udren K3SGT

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	KB3IRQ	N3RDV	WB4GCS	WASH FL	WASH VI
AB3EN	KB3IVW	N3SBF	WO3Z	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF
AB3DL	KB3IVX	N3TIR		W4ZE	<b>Silent</b>
AC4KU	KB3ORR	N3ZEL	Mary Jean	WASH GA	<b>Keys</b>
K3AIR	KB3SRB	N3ZNI	Senk	K3OL	K3EED
K3AVQ	KB3SVX	N9OKM	Jane	KB3IJX	(George)
K3GW	KC4WTT	NU3S	Wagner	WASH NC	KA3NMG
K3HCR	KE7FD	W3LE		N3RNK	KB3ENX
K3LGM	N1NCZ	W3RJM		WASH NE	KB3FNM
K3SGT	N2QIV	W3RWS		NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3VX	N3AWF	W3SRL		WASH OH	N3FZ
KA3TWI	N3BPB	W3VFA		N8DPW	W3KEH
KB3DCO	N3CZZ	W3WH		WASH TN	N3OBD
KB3GMN	N3DFK	W3WN		KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3GMP	N3FB	WA3JPP		N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3GMU	N3HKQ	WA3NB		WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3HFP	N3PN	WA3RVD		K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3IAC	N3QMV	WB3CAI		Jane Wagner	

Through June 18<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*

August 13 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	Training for the Hidden Transmitter Hunt in conjunction with WACOM, more details to be announced
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Skyview ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.skyviewradio.net">http://www.skyviewradio.net</a>
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	<a href="http://www.w3pie.org">http://www.w3pie.org</a>
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
September 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL September VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Butler County ARA Hamfest	<a href="http://www.w3udx.org">http://www.w3udx.org</a>
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	California QSO Party	
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	Pa QSO Party Preparations
October 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Pennsylvania QSO Party	<a href="http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html">http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html</a>
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VEC Exam	Pre-register via <a href="mailto:n3zel@comcast.net">n3zel@comcast.net</a>
October 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Scouting's Jamboree on the Air	
October 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	New York QSO Party	
October 24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
November 7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
November 28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	CQ Worldwide DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>
December 4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
December 12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>



# 146.955 Departs Downtown Mt. Lebanon

For the last few years, the 146.955 & 442.550 N3SH Repeater System has been co-located with the communications equipment of Mt. Lebanon EOC & former South Hills 911 Center.

Changing needs, and new equipment that need to be installed by Allegheny County at that site, dictated that sometime this year, there would no longer be space for the machines and that they would have to re-locate. The only question was when, as other projects had to be taken care of first. The word came down during the first week of August that the County was ready to take over the space. On Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, Steve W3SRL was joined by a crew from the club... well, let's let him put it in his own words:

This morning we were blessed with a GREAT crew and fantastic weather for the repeater move project. W3VFA, N3QMV, N3IDH, K3VX, KE7FD and N3FB all met at the Mt. Lebanon repeater site at 0900 and by noon we had both machines dismantled, the antenna removed and the whole ball of wax safely nestled in my home garage. Kudos go out to our crew, there were absolutely no issues and most importantly NO INJURIES of any kind! Thank you guys!

As of this posting (19:45 hours, 9 August 2009) the 146.955 machine is back up and running, with slightly increased power and an antenna system that Bubba would be proud of. The 442.550 system is still off the air and it will remain so until we can relocate both systems to their new permanent site.

Even though the current arrangement is temporary, I am interested in signal and performance reports while the machine sits here at my QTH. I will be on vacation all of next week, and I hope to have the new site available for us soon after my return.

As always, thank you for your patience and your continued support. - 73, Steve Lane W3SRL



The mechanical room on top of the elevator shaft



How you access the comm equipment from the mechanical room



The duplexers see the light of day



Working on the repeater antennas



Walking the repeater rack down the steps from the roof to the elevators

All photos this page courtesy of and ©Copyright 2009 Ed Salva W3VFA

# N3SH July Picnic at South Park



All picnic photos this page are courtesy of & © Copyright 2009 Ron Notarius W3WN



Bob AB3ED and Randy N2QIV at Flag Corner 8 at the 2009 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

Another fantastic job done by all amateurs participating!  
If you'd like to hear what a Course Check sounds like, check out

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeXlXIGRNEY&feature=related>

And if you'd like to know WHY Amateur Radio operators are needed at the PVGP flag corners, check out these videos as well:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrF1bCq7DLs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dca5mCciUYM>

... and that's just the Pace Cars!

Course check video courtesy of Mark Senk WB3CAI

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2009 Bob Timmons AB3ED

# Local Hams Aid Rescue Squad to Solve Public Safety Interference Issue

Phyllis Benton NP2MZ, PIO, ARRL USVI Section courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

When you live on a remote island with numerous mountains and valleys, communications can be tricky. Add interference that blocks the main communications frequency used by the local emergency rescue squad and you've got a disaster waiting to happen. That's what responders and residents on St John in the US Virgin Islands recently found themselves facing.

On June 12, the primary repeater output frequency for St John Rescue [www.stjohnrescue.org](http://www.stjohnrescue.org) was completely blocked by a 2-tone AFSK signal that continued for more than a week. Because St John Rescue uses the frequency to dispatch, monitor and provide two-way communications during emergency calls, it was vital that the cause of the problem be detected and corrected.

Some members of St John Rescue are also members of ARES. With some additional help from the FCC, three hams — Paul Jordan NP2JF, Mal Preston NP2L, and George Cline KP2G — set out to find the source of the interference.

The interference was not directly affecting operation of a second rescue repeater, USVI PIO Phyllis Benton NP2MZ told the ARRL. "St John Rescue Chief Gilly Grimes and Paul Jordan NP2JF, used handheld Yagi antennas to 'fox hunt' for the source of interference," she said. "To their surprise, the signal was being received off the back of the antennas and coming in very strong."

The source of the interference turned out to be 32 miles away from a tower on Mount St Georges on the island of St Croix. "The carrier frequency was just 7.5 kHz above the rescue frequency of 158.7525 MHz," she explained. "Upon closer inspection, the problem was isolated to a repeater that is part of the new US Virgin Islands territory-wide MPT 1327 trunking system. This transmitter was licensed for and was putting out 120 W with a pass band of 50 kHz and was being tested as the control channel."

Benton said that the second, unaffected repeater operates at an output frequency of 159.660 MHz, far enough away from the trunking frequency being tested to avoid being affected: "This second repeater serves areas not covered by the primary repeater. So, until the problem was resolved, a large part of St John was left without reliable rescue emergency radio communications. Once the source of the problem was identified, the interference was turned off on June 19."

To head off any future interference problems, the trunking system promoters have asked St John Rescue to change its current repeater frequencies to frequencies that theoretically would not receive interference from the trunking system. St John Rescue is considering this request.

The following operation **has been approved** for DXCC:

## 701YGF – Yemen Operation from 16–26 April 2000

After reviewing recently-received information regarding the 701YGF operation, and after additional dialogue with a leader of the DXpedition, the DXCC desk has approved this operation.

Considering the length of time that has passed, we ask that DXCC participants who would like to claim credit for 701YGF follow the options below:

- Send the 701YGF card ONLY to DXCC with a SASE, or return postage if outside the US; DXCC will process the card and applicants will not be charged a submission fee. 701YGF cards included with other cards will be handled as part of a normal submission.
- Bring the card to a DXCC Card Checker. The card checker will forward the confirmation to the DXCC desk for processing. Again, there will be no submission fee if this is a single-card submission. You must fill out an application form, however.
- In all other cases applicants can include their QSL card with their next submission, and it will be handled normally.
- We will work with the 701YGF team to use Logbook of the World if possible.

— Bill Moore NC1L, ARRL DXCC Desk

## DX News Briefs

### Breaking News:

The ARRL DXCC Desk announced a change in status for **701YGF** status on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The text of the announcement is available in the left column on this page.



Ogasawara is now QRV courtesy of **JD1BLY** (QSL via JI5RPT) and **JD1BNF** (via JO1LVZ) through 15 August. They plan to be active on all bands and modes, and will answer QSL's direct and via the buro — OPDX

CT1GPQ is now QRV from East Timor as **4W6AL**. He plans to be active in his spare time, mainly CW with some RTTY & SSB, 40–17 meters. QSL via CT1GFK — CT1GPQ

W7VOA is presently in Kabul reporting on the Afghan national elections. He plans to operate as time permits as **T6AD**. He will be running 100 W to a G5RV on 40, 20, and 15 CW. QSL via N2AU — NG3K

VK6DXI is now QRV as time permits as **9M8DX/2** from West Malaysia. From 13 to 18 August, he will be QRV "holiday style" as **9M8DX** from East Malaysia. He primarily operates CW. QSL via SP5UAF — VK6DXI

Need Tahiti? F5PHW has been issued **F08RZ** from French Polynesia for his two year stay. Reports are that his vertical is up & more antennas to follow. QSL via F8BPN or Logbook of the World — F5NQL

**8N7IOTA** will be QRV through 30 September to celebrate Sendai "Elegant Travel Campaign" from several islands. **8J3YS** will be QRV through 8 November for Yasu. And **8J8WA** will be QRV through 8 September for the 22<sup>nd</sup> All Japan Health and Welfare Festival in Sapporo. QSL all via the JARL Bureau — JJ1WTL/AC6IM

A team of six operators will be operating from 6 different IOTA islands as **P29VCX** 22–26 October, **P29VLR** 27–31 October, and **P29NI** 2–9 November. SM6CVX will also operate solo as **P29VCX** from 11–16 November. Island groups include OC-102, OC-231, OC-205, OC-117, OC-116 & OC-240. QSL P29NI via G3KHZ, all others via SM6CVX — IZ1CRR

The Easter Island DXpedition scheduled for 31 October — 15 November has been issued **XRØYA**. They have permission to operate on "all" bands, but they plan to focus 160–30 meters. Working EU on 30 will be a priority. CW will be their main mode, with SSB and RTTY planned as well. QSL route TBA. More information at <http://rapanui2009.org> — MMONDX

The QSL Manager for **S5ØHQ** is now S54G, replacing S57XX. The log has been uploaded to Logbook of the World — S5ØU

QSL Cards for **4F1VEM/9**, **4F4PA** & **DY1C** have been printed are enroute to VE7DP, who expects to receive them "any day now." Once the cards arrive, all direct requests will be processed by the end of August — VE7DP

## QSL Routes

3D2YA via JA1NLX — W4DN	H44MY via OM2SA — GM4FAM
3DAØZO via OHØXX — DO1DXX	HVØA via IKØFVC — DO1DXX
3XM6JR via UA6JR — W2IRT	HZ1FS/p via EA7FTR — W3AWU
4L1FX via DJ1CW — JA1HGY	J75KG via KU9C — EA4ZK
4U1UN via HB9BOU — W4DN	J88DR via G3TBK — K6GEP
5NØOCH via DL3OCH — PAØWRS	JW5LJA via LA5LJA — W2IRT
5R8KD via W5KDJ — W5KDJ	L21D via LU7DSY — EU7SA
5V7PM via DL9MBI — JA1HGY	SØ4R via EA5RM — W2IRT
A7/MØFGA via NN1N — MMØBQN	S21DX via EB7DX — EU7SA
A73A via EA7FTR — K6GEP	TF3CW via LX1NO — W4DN
BS7H via KU9C — EA4ZK	T17KK via DK6AO — W3AWU
CO8LY via EA7ADH — CO8LY	TT8FC via EA4AHK — EU7SA
CX7CO via WB3CDX — PAØWRS	V63MY via OM2SA — GM4FAM
DU3NXE via W3Hnk — W2IRT	V63TO via OM2SA — DO1DXX
E44M via IZØBTV — KRØO	V8AQM via W3Hnk — JA1HGY
EP2MKO via RU7FZ — EU7SA	YA5T via KU9C — EA4ZK
ER5GB via W3Hnk — JA1HGY	YJØSS via JA7SGV — JA1HGY
ET3JA via OK3AA — KRØO	ZK3MW via H3TRJ — K6GEP
EX8AB via RX3RC — DO1DXX	ZW8BBC via PS8DX — W3AWU
FW1W via JM1LJS — WD5AAM	ZYØF via PY2WAS — KRØO

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 McCleenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.





## WASH Classifieds

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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Phone: 724-431-0400      Fax: 724-431-0401  
[mlazaroff@murrinlaw.com](mailto:mlazaroff@murrinlaw.com)



## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith notified Duquesne Light Company (DQE) on July 27<sup>th</sup> regarding a complaint filed by an unnamed Amateur Radio operator located in Allison Park, PA. The amateur had filed an interference complaint regarding "harmful radio interference" possibly being caused by DQE power lines or related equipment.



The original interference complaint dated back to 2005.

In the letter, Smith cited several examples of DQE inaction regarding dealing with the problem, with DQE concluding in 2008 that the problem was likely caused by a "neon light," and that they would require the amateur to pay for any additional time involved in attempting to locate the source of the problem. Smith informed DQE that this answer was "unacceptable" and cited FCC rules regarding the utility's responsibilities towards identifying, locating, and (if they are responsible) fixing the interference problem.

Smith informed DQE that this is a long ongoing problem, and that they have had "ample time" to identify and fix the problem with their equipment. With that in mind, DQE has been given 60 days from the date of the letter to identify and fix the sources of the problems; if they can not do so within 60 days, they will be required to issue a status update to Smith every two weeks until the problem is resolved.

The letter in its entirety (save the redacted name and address of the amateur involved) can be found at [http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Duque09\\_08\\_07\\_5108.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Duque09_08_07_5108.pdf)

On August 10, the FCC issued a Citation to Future Hobbies for marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States that operate on restricted frequencies. According to the Commission, these devices were in violation of the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended and the Commission's Rules.

In response to a complaint alleging that Future Hobbies was marketing unauthorized audio/video transmitters that are capable of operating on restricted frequencies in the 900 MHz and 2.4 GHz bands, the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau sent Future Hobbies a Letter of Inquiry on February 25, initiating an investigation. The FCC wanted to know if the company -- based in San Jose, California -- was marketing an unauthorized radio frequency device, specifically, the FHV 2.4 GHz 1000 mW audio/video transmitter and the FHV 900 MHz 500 mW audio/video transmitter. According to the Citation, the FCC observed that these devices were marketed on the retailer's Web site in February 2009.

Future Hobbies responded to the Letter of Inquiry on April 8, telling the FCC that they began selling audio/video transmitters in question on January 2, 2007; they have sold 110 units of the 2.4 GHz device and 63 units of the 900 MHz device. These audio/video transmitters are imported from Taiwan. In its reply, the company told the FCC that they began importing the 2.4 GHz device in October 2006 and the 900 MHz device in September 2007. Future Hobbies went on to say that they discontinued importation of the 900 MHz device in December 2008; they last imported the 2.4 GHz device in April 2009, though the units imported on that date are not being marketed.

The FCC noted that Future Hobbies admitted "that the two devices operate within restricted frequency bands listed in Section 15.205(a) of the Rules. Specifically, the 2.4 GHz device is capable of operating on 2370 MHz, 2390 MHz and 2490 MHz, and the 900 MHz device is capable of operating on 980 MHz, 1010 MHz and 1040 MHz." The FCC said that because these devices are capable of operation on restricted frequencies listed in Section 15.205(a) of the Rules, "the devices cannot comply with the FCC's technical standards and therefore cannot be certified or marketed within the United States."

The FCC said "it appears that Future Hobbies violated Section 302(b) of the Act and Sections 2.803 and 15.205(a) of the Rules by marketing in the United States the two transmitters [the FHV 2.4 GHz 1000 mW audio/video transmitter and the FHV 900 MHz 500 mW audio/video transmitter] listed above." Future Hobbies was warned that "if, after receipt of this citation, you violate the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules in any manner described herein, the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed \$16,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation." The company was given 30 days to respond to the Citation either through a personal interview at the Commission's Field Office nearest to their place of business or a written statement. Future Hobbies was advised that any response should specify the actions that they are taking to ensure that they do not violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency equipment in the future.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

# Making PC Boards the Easy Way

Harry Robinson KC9EOT courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

I have found a way to consistently make good PCBs. Here are the steps. This method is for a small board the will fit under an iron. For larger boards you would have to something bigger than an iron but principals are the same.

1. Print a mirror image of your circuit on a photo paper with a laser jet, preferably one side and cheap glossy photo paper.
2. Take a piece of copper clad circuit board, and clean it with fine grain steel wool, put a piece of paper over and heat it with an iron for 2 minutes on high.
3. Cut the laser print to fit the board and lay it on the board face down. Be sure to get it aligned correctly; once you lay it on the board it will stick, so you only get one chance here.
4. Using anything you have roll across the top of paper to push the paper against the hot copper.
5. Out the iron back on the paper and press down. You are pressing the black plastic material (laser ink if you will) into the hot copper while heating it. After 2 minutes roll it again and heat for another two minutes.
6. Lightly sand the paper to remove any plastic on the paper and rough it up a little so water can soak into it easily.
7. Put it in a bowl of water for 5 minutes and then remove the top layer of paper. You will find that you and carefully remove one layer of paper from the copper but you will still have another layer to go and you can see the traces now through it.
8. Drill a small hole in a non circuit area of your board s you can attach a "coated" wire to use for dipping it.
9. Put on rubber gloves and eye protection. Mix some Muriatic acid and Hydrogen peroxide, careful here the acid can burn you. You want to mix it 2 parts Hydrogen peroxide and 1 part acid. Start with hydrogen peroxide in a container and add the acid to it slowly.
10. You will find that you can etch board well and quickly with a fresh batch of this stuff but its strength weakens quickly. You can use all the time though for this step. Put the board with the last layer of paper on it into the bath. A fresh batch will show lots of foaming.
11. When the foaming stops you can remove the board and wipe off the last layer of paper using a wash cloth and lightly rubbing the surface. You can store this material for future use though it will weaken. You can add some table salt to help keep it a little stronger but you will need to leave the board in it for probably about 3 minutes after it is 24 hours old but it works fine.
12. After you have used the acid for about 3 minutes in an old batch of acid, remove it and rinse it in water. Then gently rub off the last layer of paper which should come off real easy. You should find that the laser traces are fairly firmly melted to the surface of the PCB giving you a nice clean circuit to etch.
13. You can use Radio Shack etchant or you can make your own by obtaining anhydrous ferric chloride form a chemical company. It will cost (I think) around \$40 for a 500ml container of this powder which is enough to last a life time HHIH. I used about 5 or 6 plastic teaspoons for about 16 oz. of water and it does a real nice job. Add the ferric chloride to water, not water to the ferric chloride and add it very slowly as it will fizz and bubble. You don't want it spitting this stuff back at you or on a surface as it is also corrosive and could burn you. It wont burn you badly or anything but you will want to rinse it off if you get the liquid on you.
14. After you have made this up put the circuit board in it; it will eat the copper away from the board leaving only the copper traces. When the board is fully etched rinse with water and use steel wool to remove the laser material from the board to reveal your copper traces. Tin the traces by coating the circuits with rosin paste solder and soldering them with a very light layer of solder.

Congratulations on your circuit board!



Above: Dismantling the repeater antenna

Right: 2 repeaters, disassembled

These photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2009 Larry Comden K3VX





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Moving Day for 146.955 & 442.550  
to their temporary home at  
W3SRL's QTH

Left: Lowering the equipment rack  
down from the communications  
room into the machine room

Right: Positioning the equipment  
rack into their temporary location in  
W3SRL's garage (where's the Jeep?)

These photos courtesy of and  
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K3VX



## The WASHRag

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