



# WASHRAG™

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N3SH  
WA3SH  
NP2SH/B



Wireless Association of South Hills

## 2009 Pa QSO Party

Time flies when you're having fun and dodging anarchists and other assorted G-20 protesters. Hard to believe that you'll be receiving this only a few days before the 2009 running of the Pennsylvania QSO Party (very possibly the oldest, continuously running state QSO part around!

Compared to years past, things have actually been pretty quiet. Mike N3LI, Contest Chairman, has announced that the "KQX" Group will be running N3KAE for this year's bonus station from Wyoming County; a list of other known planned operations is included on Page 6.

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.

Here's what we've heard so far... no word yet on who will be activating the club calls in this year's endeavor...

- Rich N3SBF & Carol KB3GMN will once again be operating from their location in **Clarion** County
- Randy N3ZK has announced that his team will once again be representing **Venango** County, and will once again be looking for a Clean Sweep.
- Bill W3WH & Larry K3VX will be activating **Armstrong** Co.
- Ed N3ZNI plans to go **mobile** again.
- Ron W3WN will run a Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter station again this year from his home in **Allegheny** County. K3AIR, W3LE, and K3HCR have indicated that they'll help out, and there's room for a few more!
- Ted W4ZE will be operating Sunday from **South Florida**.

Interested? Or do you want to do something else? Check the club reflector for last minute updates!

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

### Next Meeting: October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be a Dinner Meeting on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at the **Al's Cafe**, 440 McMurray Road at Clifton Road, Bethel Park, starting at **6:30 PM**.

Besides dinner, topics for the evening include PA QSO Planning, 2010 Officer Elections, 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!

### Repeater Update

The offline period for the repeaters has been much longer than I had originally anticipated and I apologize.

Once we had both machines reassembled at my QTH I started the ritual tune-up process and that is where the troubles began to surface. Items that required attention included:

1. Programming on the 146.955 controller is stored in (allegedly) non-volatile memory. Hah! I plugged the machine in one morning to do some tune-up work only to have it identify itself as 32HN4. What the ????
2. The 2 meter power amplifier could produce only about 40 watts out, I had to swap in the spare unit I have on the shelf. Spare unit produced only about 25 watts out from a 100 watt amplifier. Online order placed to Mouser for parts to repair both amps. Both repaired and putting out a full 100 watts. ERP from the new location should be ~ 80 watts or so, give or take. (In the RF world, altitude is everything!)
3. CW ID on both repeaters was routinely chopping the front off of the call sign, producing "S3SH" or some such crap in place of the "N3SH / R" it was supposed to. A call to the controller manufacturer was somewhat successful, I ended up butchering the input code to get it to work. Yay! (not)
4. My desire to have linking ability between the 2 meter and 70 cm machines was foiled by what seems to be a boogered EPROM on the 442.550 controller. This function is controlled by the remote base inputs but every time I enable the remote base the 440 machine locks on the air

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# "Seen" at the IC Mission Race 5K Run/Walk



Members of **WACOM** and **WASH** provided communications for the 2009 IC (Immaculate Conception) Mission Race; a 5K run and walk held on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> in downtown Washington PA.

Amateurs providing assistance included Bud N3TIR, Norma N3YJJ, Mike N3TIQ (not in picture), Steven KB3SVX, Bob KB3IN, Dave N3IDH and Kevin N3HKQ.

The weather was perfect, the race fast and by 10:00 AM all participants had finished the race.

The race organizers were very happy for our help and want us to be back again for next year's event!

Photos courtesy of and  
©Copyright 2009 Kevin Smith  
N3HKQ

## 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
<b>WASH</b> FM Net Manager	Kevin Smith N3HKQ
<b>WASHFest</b> 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 (tentative)  
 Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
 Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

Where did the summer go? Where did September go? It seems like we were just getting together the other day, and then before you knew it, September 26<sup>th</sup> rolled around for the next gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** to gathered once again at **The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month's crew included K3HCR, AE3DL, W9UK, W3VFA, Mary Lou Marzina, W8LEV, N3HKQ & Peg, WB4GCW, N3BPB and W3WN. Morning conversations included the G-20 aftermath, the Railfan trip, the Miracle League, visiting the Harley museum, getting bids, EAA is Oshkosh, going to a Pirate game, the new football stadium in Dalas, Pitt football, stress tests, hiring, I-pods, taking notes at Planning Commission meetings, "Greenpeace gives Progressives a bad name," and N3BPB promising all of us "I'll give you a quote — later", and much, much more.

So, what did you miss out on? Find out at the next Club Breakfast will be Spooky Halloween Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm (assuming it survives the G-20 protesters). Come down & share a cup of coffee & a devil of a ghou, er, good time with us!

**October Meeting Moved:** Our October meeting date (October 8<sup>th</sup>) coincides with the Peter Township school open house. As we've learned the hard way, parking at the library will be at a premium because of this. So, the club meeting will NOT be held at the Peters Township library, but will be a dinner meeting down the road at **Al's Café**, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park at the intersection with Clifton Road, starting at 6:30.

**2010 Elections:** Hard to believe, but yes, another year has rolled around, and it's time once again for nominations for next year's club officers. Opening nominations will be taken at the October meeting.

**The 2010 2 Meter Simplex Contest** is also coming up in just a few short weeks. Time to start thinking about where you'll be operating for our fun little local contest! We should have the 2010 rules in next month's newsletter, not that there should be any major changes (ye editor writes confidentially)

And, of course, that means that **WASHFest 2010** will also be here before you know it!

**Remember! We need pictures from your Pa QSO Party Operations!**

**The DX Columns** got squeezed out this month due to time constraints, but they will be back next month, Sorry about that!

Ye Editor wants to give everyone advance notice that he will not be able to make Field Day next year... and once again, it's Little Miss Field Day's fault. Jessie Notarius auditioned for and was selected for the June 2010 **Model and Talent Expo** in Dallas, TX, which will be taking place the week before. Only 500 individuals from around the country are selected for this event; Jessie was one of a small handful selected from over 250 people who auditioned in the Pittsburgh area. Jessie will be raising money to cover travel costs for herself and her parents (as a minor, we'd be nutz to let her travel to this alone!), so don't be surprised if you hear from here looking for work over the next few weeks.

October 4th, 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the organization of what would become the University of Pennsylvania ARC W3KZ (first licensed as 3ASO in 1916, later W3ABT & N3KZ)  
 MIT's club station, W1MX, was first organized in early 1909  
 What became the Penn State ARC K3CR also first organized in 1909 (first licensed as 8XE in 1912)  
 The Georgia Tech ARC W4AQL dates back to 1910

### N3SH/R Continued from Page 1

until it times out. Calls to tech support (several hours on the phone) were fruitless, I have the controller boxed up and ready to ship. The manufacturer promises a "quick" turnaround time.

5. Visit to the new site several weeks ago was very productive, essentially all we have to do is move the machines down there and plug them in. Bought a bunch of double-shielded coax jumpers, Polyphaser etc. to make it happen. Tessco says they shipped the order, but UPS has nothing in the database. Replacements sent via overnight service.

I'm hopeful that we'll be able to get the things back on the air within a week or so, I thank you for your patience. I think the wait will be worthwhile!

— 73, Steve Lane W3SRL

## Hamvention® 2010

Greg NB3C informs us that the University of Dayton is only making suites available in the Virginia Kettering building. The Lawnview Apartments are not being made available for reasons unknown.

Greg has once again been able to secure six suites at the U of Dayton for those going to Dayton. He is not able to get any more, as the available space has all been reserved.

Each suite has 2 bedrooms; each bedroom holds 2 people. These suites do not have kitchens, although a refrigerator will be available.

Cost per room is \$96 per night (a slight increase), which works out to \$72 per person for all three nights. Money will not be due until January or February.

Over half of the available space has already been reserved.

If you are interested, please contact Greg Babin NB3C at [kq3dx@verizon.net](mailto:kq3dx@verizon.net) to check on remaining space.

## WASHNet

### 2009 NCS Schedule

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

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2010 Today! Membership Application on Page 9!

## Minutes, August 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

Larry K3VX, called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. There were 17 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 June 2009 meeting as published in the July & August 2009 newsletters. 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): The result of the most recent VE testing resulted in two new Techs. The next VE session will be in October and as always VE's are always needed and welcome.

Repeaters (N3RNx, W3SRL & N3FB): The N3SH 2-meter and W3SRL 70-cm repeater are temporarily off the air as they have been taken from the former site in Mount Lebanon to Steve Lane's home. They will remain there until final arrangements are complete with the new host. The new location for the repeaters will be revealed once this occurs. Steve is confident that the repeaters will be relocated sooner than later and that the new site is actually better than the old one in terms of location and elevation.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): The NCS schedule for the last half of 2009 is published. It is my goal to try to have a surprise simulated emergency sometime.

Field Day feedback: Larry K3VX asked for feedback about the South Park location for Field Day. In general everyone had positive opinion about the location although a few members still preferred the Mingo Park location in conjunction with the Astronomy group. Kevin Smith said he would chair the event again next year regardless of where it is held.

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

Public Service (N3RDV): Dave DeMotte N3IDH reminded everyone of the 5K Run/Walk held in Washington on Labor Day. The race begins around 9:00 AM so everyone who wants to provide radio communication assistance should be in place by 8:00 AM. The 146.79 repeater will be used. Also on Saturday, September 19th there will be another 5K run/walk sponsored by the Youth Group of Immaculate Conception Church in Washington and help is requested there as well. Finally on September 27 the Pittsburgh Great Race is scheduled. It is not known what affect the upcoming G20 Summit will have on the race. Stay tuned.

Contests (K3VX): None mentioned.

Newsletter (W3WN): Another fine effort.

Quartermaster (K3HCR): The tower trailer has been relocated to Carol & Richie's home for storage. A new tarp has been purchased to provide protection from the elements during storage. Thanks to Carol and Richie for offering to provide a home for our trailer.

President's Report (K3VX): Larry has asked about anyone's plans for the 2009 PA QSO Party held this year on October 10 & 11. Preliminary plans include K3VX and W3WH operating from Armstrong County, N3ZK and his usual crowd will again operate from Venango County, W3WN is organizing a multi-op from Allegheny County and N3ZNI is again going mobile.

Old Business: Nothing mentioned.

New Business:

\* Due to the scheduled October meeting night also being the same as Peter's Township School District's open house, and the usual lack of parking that occurs, [a motion was placed to move the October meeting to Al's Café](#), as a dinner meeting. Carol Danko will call to make the arrangements. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Good of the Order - Larry K3VX asked everyone to make suggestions as to what needs to be done to finish the tower trailer. Please submit ideas to him in time to discuss at the next meeting and put to a vote.

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.

Program: Homemade fox hunting antenna projects by Larry K3VX.

## WASH Spotlight: PSK



PSK is not just a mode... W3WN's kids, Paul Klein & Jessie Notarius, with proud Dad holding his son Paul Scott Klein. [It's not like you haven't been warned! Next month, submit photos or I WILL run a picture of the dog!]

Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2009 Julie Notarius

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 Fiinleyville, just south of Trax Farms and adjacent to Mineral Beach. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

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

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3IRQ	N3RDV	WB4GCS	WASH FL	WASH VI
AB3EN	KB3IVW	N3SBF	WO3Z	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF
AE3DL	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		N3RNx	KB3ENX
K3LGM	N1NCZ	W3RJM		WASH NE	KB3FNM
K3SGT	N2QIV	W3RWS		NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3VX	N3AWF	W3SRL		WASH OH	N3FZ
KA3TWI	N3BPB	W3VFA		N8DPW	N3KEH
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 August 25<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*

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>
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	WASH VEC Exam	Pre-register via <a href="mailto:n3zel@comcast.net">n3zel@comcast.net</a>
January 23 <sup>rd</sup> — 24 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL January VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	WASHFest 2010	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>

Mobile ham radios will be required to operate "hands free" in the Province of Ontario, Canada. Amateurs have less than 3 years to comply with the new regulations

"To help these businesses stay competitive, Ontario is granting a three-year phase-out period for the commercial use of two-way radios, including mobile and CB radios, to allow for hands-free technologies to be developed. "

"The use of hand-held radios by amateur radio operators (who provide assistance, especially in emergency situations such as severe storms and blackouts) will be phased out within three years, to allow hands-free technologies to be developed. "

<http://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2009/09/ontarios-new-rules-for-hand-held-wireless-and-entertainment-devices.html>

The Astatic brand name for microphones is going away.

*Newsline* reports that CAD Professional Microphones and Astatic Commercial Audio Products are being brought together under a single new brand name, CAD Audio.

Astatic was a major player in the ham radio and CB microphone markets in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Its best-known and most distinctive mic was the lollipop-shaped D-104.

<http://newsvc.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

# Pa QSO Party Plans

as of 2 October 2009 courtesy of Bud Trench AA3B

County	Call	Notes
Allegheny	AD8J	160 — 10 SSB/CW Low Power
	W3WVN	M/S w/K3AIR, W3LE, K3HCR
Armstrong	K3VX	80—10
	W3WH	80—10
Berks	AA3B	
Bradford	WA3CSP/P	160—2 mostly SSB
Butler	N3MSE	
Bucks	K3TX	80—10 CW
Bucks	WE3E	80—10 SSB/CW
Cambria	WA3SES	160—10 CW/SSB
Carbon	K3NG	QRP
	K3PP	
	N3CR	+ KA3AFY Multi/One
	W3T	M/S w/KB1PAJ, KB3SPJ
Clarion	N3SBF	+ KB3GMN
	NN3NN	CW
Clarion/Forest	K3T	County Line 80—20
Crawford	W3TX	
	WA3A	
Cumberland	WØBR	160—2
Elk	KE3FO	Phone & CW

County	Call	Notes
Erie	W3GV	80 -10
	W3CG	160—10 CW
Fayette	K3MI	160—6
Forest/Clarion	K3T	County Line 80—20
Huntington	NA3F	160—20
Jefferson	KD8MQ/3	w/WI8T & KD8KMQ
Juniata	KA3JOI	80—20 SSB
Lancaster	N3NTJ	80—10
McKean	N3LLR	80—10 SSB
	NJ3K	160—10 CW
Montgomery	KD3D	160—10 SSB/CW
	K3KFD	
Mifflin	W8BS/3	40—20 SSB/PSK QRP
Schuylkill	NT3V	w/WA3WSJ WR1B 160—2
Somerset	KC3XD	80—15 SSB
Sullivan	N3NBT	w/N3BQB 80—10 SSB
Venango	N3ZK	& Team, All Bands, SSB/CW
Warren	N3FR	80—20 CW/SSB
Washington	KA4NWS/3	w/KG4NWS all modes
Wyoming	N3KAE	BONUS STATION
Mobiles / Rovers	N3LI, N3ZNI, WA3EOP	

### Late Additions:

Lycoming	KC3M	Pending birth of grandchild!
Northampton	KC2ZA	Pending birth of grandchild!
Somerset	N3ZLV	160—6 All Modes QRP

South Florida	W4ZE	Sunday Only
Mobiles / Rovers	K8RYU/R, W3USA/M	

A few notes for those who are too lazy to look up and read the full Pa QSO Party Rules: <http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html>

- The PaQP runs from 1600 Z to 0500 Z Saturday, and 1300 Z to 2200 Z Sunday.
- Exchange is Serial Number and QTH (County for Pa stations, ARRL Section for out of state). Unlike most state QSO parties, the PaQP uses ARRL sections as the out of state multipliers for PA stations. Therefore guys in places like WTX and EWA are likely to make a lot of PA guys very happy with their activity. Also, for guys in CA (and to a lesser extent FL), you may well be a new mult for the PA gang. The Pa QSO Party has a different interpretation for Canadian (RAC) sections. In reality they count multipliers for all VE provinces, Yukon, and Northwest Territories (Nunavut counts as NWT), and divide the province of Newfoundland and Labrador into two multipliers, <Newfoundland> and <Labrador> (VO1 & VO2). So the guys in the Maritimes Contest Club will also make lots of PA guys happy with their activity.
- Should you notice that the 40 meter CW band is clobbered by RTTY QRM on early Saturday evening, don't give up. That QRM is from the Makrothen RTTY contest, which runs in three different periods, one of which ends at 2359z Saturday. So check back after 0000z for PA, and the RTTY will have magically disappeared.
- The Pa QSO Party has fantastic activity levels - top out of state stations often make over 700 QSO's. So get on this weekend, go at it and have fun!

I'll be out there in PA for at least part of the time, more likely on Sunday. . Hope to work lots of you.

— 73, Jim Stahl K8MR (excerpted from a post to the CQ-Contest Reflector)



## WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

Custom Decals, Signs, Plaques and Woodworking from **Randy George N3ZK**

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## FCC News

ARRL Web Extra courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

On September 28, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to a California firm that the Commission maintains was using amateur frequencies to conduct business. According to the Commission, Shimmick Construction Company Inc/Obayashi Corporation, Joint Venture ("Shimmick-Obayashi") -- licensees of stations WQER756, WQEN793, WQJI360 and WQKG818 — apparently repeatedly violated Section 1.903(a) of the Commission's Rules "by failing to operate only in accordance with the rules applicable to their particular service as set forth in the Commission's Rules and with a valid authorization granted by the Commission."



On two separate occasions in May 2009, the FCC's Los Angeles office received complaints that a concrete delivery company was operating numerous mobile stations in Yorba Linda, California, on 146.025 MHz, a frequency allocated exclusively to the Amateur Radio Service.

On May 26, 2009, and agent from the Los Angeles office used radio direction finding techniques to locate transmissions on 146.025 MHz from a construction site in Yorba Linda California; the transmissions were not identified by call sign. "The transmissions monitored by the Los Angeles agent related to mixing and delivery of concrete on the construction site," the NAL stated. "The Los Angeles agent then viewed the construction site and correlated the movement of concrete trucks with associated radio transmissions on 146.025 MHz."

The next day — May 27 — the same agent again used radio direction finding techniques to "positively locate" the source of transmissions on 146.025 MHz to the construction site. The Los Angeles agent visited the site and spoke with the Shimmick-Obayashi supervisor of the on-site concrete plant, and according to the NAL, allowed the Los Angeles agent to inspect several of the handheld radios in use at the site. "The Los Angeles agent confirmed that the frequency 146.025 MHz was programmed into frequency selector position #5 on numerous Motorola model CP200 portable transceivers that were being used to coordinate construction operations throughout the site," the NAL stated. "The Shimmick-Obayashi construction supervisor told the Los Angeles agent that he did not know anything about a license for the radios, but that he would immediately stop using the Amateur Radio Service frequency programmed in position #5 on the Motorola CP200 transceivers."

On May 28, the Los Angeles agent researched the Commission's records and determined that the two companies that had formed the joint venture Shimmick-Obayashi -- Shimmick Construction Inc and Obayashi Corporation -- were both Commission licensees. Shimmick Construction, Inc holds Industrial Radio Service licenses WQJI360 and WQKG818 that authorize operations nationwide, including in Yorba Linda, California, but neither of these licenses authorize use of 146.025 MHz. Obayashi Corporation holds Industrial Radio Service licenses WQER756 and WQEN793, but neither of these licenses authorizes use of 146.025 MHz. The research also revealed that the Shimmick-Obayashi joint venture, as an entity, did not hold any Commission licenses.

Section 1.903(a) of the Commission's Rules requires that stations in the Wireless Radio Services must be used and operated only in accordance with the rules applicable to their particular service, and with a valid authorization granted by the Commission. According to the FCC, on May 26 and 27, 2009, a Los Angeles agent located transmissions from Shimmick-Obayashi on 146.025 MHz emanating from mobile users at a construction site in Yorba Linda, California. At the time of the investigation, neither Shimmick-Obayashi, nor the individual companies that made up the joint venture, was authorized to operate on 146.025 MHz. The violation occurred for more than one day, therefore, it was repeated.

In accordance with The Commission's Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment of Section 1.80 of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines and Section 1.80 of the Commission's Rules, the Commission concluded that the base forfeiture amount for use of an unauthorized frequency is \$4000.

#### For Sale:

- Yaesu FT-10R \$75
- ICOM IC-24AT \$100 w/ extra battery & rapid charger
- Astron RS-20A \$65
- High Sierra HS-101 Screwdriver Antenna \$150

Contact Chuck Mills W3YNK [w3yni@arrl.net](mailto:w3yni@arrl.net)

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

# Reading Between the Lines

Don Keith N4KC courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

When I am contemplating an amateur radio purchase, I find the reviews offered by others on [eHam](http://www.eham.net) or other similar sites to be quite helpful. After a piece of gear has accumulated several dozen comments, I find there is enough input to make a good judgment about not only the quality of the item but whether its feature set is really what I am looking for. After many years of perusing the reviews, though, I think I have picked up the ability to read between the lines of some of them, and to glean even more information from them.

As a service to my fellow hams, here is a quick guide to what posters are really saying in those reviews. No need to thank me. I'm happy to help.

- What the reviewer says: "This thing is a POS!"  
What the reviewer means: "This wonderful bit of electronic engineering is a POS - a 'perfectly operating system!' I'd buy a dozen but I don't have room to store them."
- What the reviewer says: "0/5"  
What the reviewer means: "I know the thing has a 4.9/5 average, and I'm the only one—out of 527 reviews—to give it less than a 4. But I pulled mine out of the box, tossed the box and manual in the dumpster, hooked it up, tried to load it up to a lawn chair, and the output transistors went pppsssszzzzlll. What a pile of junk! How can they get away with selling stuff like this?"
- What the reviewer says: "I know this antenna is only a 50-ohm resistor in a tub of epoxy, but it is the greatest radiator ever invented. My first contact was with a VK on 40 meters in broad daylight from St. Louis. Forget the laws of physics. This technology may well win the Nobel Prize. A hundred years of antenna engineering and never, until now, has someone discovered such a stunning breakthrough like this. The thing is a miracle!"  
What the reviewer means: "My brother-in-law and I make these things in our basement. Every other positive review you see is from somebody we gave a free one in exchange for the '5.' Please buy one. I suddenly have lots and lots of legal bills and the Federal Trade Commission is spamming my in-box."
- What the reviewer says: "Too complicated, too many knobs, the menu structure reminds me of that calculus class I dropped in college. What good is it if I can't figure out how to even turn it on?"  
What the reviewer means: "I want DC-to-daylight, roofing filters, noise blanking, all modes, backlighting with a choice of a hundred colors, and instant mode and bandswitching, CW speed, mic gain, sideband selection, satellite choices, split and reverse split, three receivers, voice processing, and more...all with two knobs and no menus."  
Alternative version of what the reviewer means: "I've been inactive since Nixon was president. I'm still looking for some tubes in this thing. And knobs for the plate and load. A menu on a radio? Next thing you'll tell me is that people are getting radios that plug into their computers. I think I need to go lie down for a while."
- What the reviewer says: "Their customer service is the worst. Dunno how they stay in business."  
What the reviewer means: "Okay, so I questioned the person's ancestry and sobriety, and used some language more appropriate for a dockworker. And that was just while talking to the receptionist. But their junk blew a fuse and all I did was go key-down for an hour with no antenna hooked up. And fudged just a bit when I told them when I bought it. Fudged by six years. But the least they could have done is send me a new one."
- What the reviewer says: "Man, this is one fantastic radio! I had no idea something this great was on the market. I'd buy six more if I had the desk space."  
What the reviewer means: "Look, I could have bought a slightly used Toyota for what this box full of parts cost me. It makes power on two bands, drifts like a hobo, smells like sardines when it gets hot...which it does quite quickly...and produces transmit audio that sounds like a cement mixer full of gravel. But if you think I'm going to spend that much on something and not pretend to love it, you're out of your mind!"
- What the reviewer says: "reel gud flox bt som time seemz to gof wen glocking the qtr. hey, ifn want craigy swartz, this is the wun yu waant."  
What the reviewer means: Well, truth is that I haven't quite figured those kinds of posts out yet. I know our education system is superb and that no one could graduate high school without being able to string together a coherent sentence. I figure this must be some other language with which I am not familiar.
- What the reviewer says: "WOW! THIS IS ONE SWEET, SWEET PIECE OF GEAR!!!!!!!"  
What the reviewer means: "I do like this piece of equipment. I just can't figure out how to get the caps lock on my keyboard turned off since all the RF in the shack turned it on back in '98."

So that is my little attempt at interpreting the web reviews for ham gear. I do hope it has been helpful and that you will all continue to give the rest of us the benefit of your comments. They do mostly serve a useful purpose, and thanks to the sites that allow for this first-hand commentary.

**There are two kinds of people in this world:  
Those who have chased ball bearings all over the shop floor,  
And those who have never opened up a Tailtwister.  
— Fred Hopengarten K1VR**

**Don't forget:  
WASH 2010 Officer Nominations  
open at the October Meeting**

To celebrate the 64th General Assembly of the United Nations, 4U1UN — the Amateur Radio station at the UN — began operating as **4U64UN** on September 22. According to [The Daily DX](#), 4U64UN will be on the air for 64 days on all bands and modes.

QSL via Logbook of The World or direct to Herbert Aeby HB9BOU.

Logs will be uploaded to LoTW once the event is over. QSL cards will be mailed out starting in December 2009.

On September 25, veteran Army communicator Jim Griffin KE7LJA, became Chief of the Army Military Affiliate Radio System ([MARS](#)). Major General Susan Lawrence, Commanding General of the 9th Signal Command (Army), named Griffin to succeed Stuart Carter; Carter has held the Chief's post since December 2006.

MARS, the Defense Department-sponsored organization of Amateur Radio operators who volunteer for communications support in emergencies, is a component of the 9th SC(A).

As a uniformed member of the Signal Corps and subsequently a civil servant, Griffin has amassed 52 years in government service. He served for two years as Deputy Chief of Army MARS, tasked with the responsibility for construction of its new gateway communications station at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.





# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

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ARRL Member?  Yes  No Family ARRL Member?  Yes  No

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

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

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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



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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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Contact Jacque Gosselin, N3ZEL 724-746-9235, [n3zel@fvi.net](mailto:n3zel@fvi.net)

First Prize: Yaesu FT-897D 160—70 cm 100W

Second Prize: ICOM IC-208H 2 M / 70 cm Mobile

Third Prize: MFJ 269 Antenna Analyzer

Check [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org) for updates

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