



WASHRAG™

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N3SH
WA3SH
NP2SH/B

Wireless Association of South Hills

Repeater Update

The long-awaited repeater move of the 146.955 & 442.55 repeaters took place on Friday, December 3rd.

A "work party" consisting of Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX, Rich N3SBF, and Ron W3WN gathered at Steve W3SRL's garage at 8:30 in the morning. The repeaters, racked, equipped with their new controller, and accompanied by their duplexers, were quickly load and secured in the bed of Rich's pickup truck and were swiftly transported to their new home.

On arrival, the rack and duplexers were escorted into the building. A few minor issues with power and antenna hookups took place (the MFJ didn't like the available antenna, but the Bird Wattmeter did... it won), and the machine was alive!

Briefly.

A minor issue with one of the four repeater ID's couldn't be quickly resolved, so it was temporarily disabled. However, some quick testing showed that the audio coming through .955 was below acceptable standards. It was determined later in the day that the receiver appeared to be 5 kHz off frequency, and some other minor tweaking was going to be needed.



Steve has indicated that he and Frank N3FB will be getting together sometime very soon to get the receiver where it should be, and get the machines realigned and operational.

The move crew was done for the day and off site before 11 AM, making for a quick morning. Coffee, snacks, and small talk followed at the West Liberty McDonalds, and the crew all scattered for home or other destinations shortly thereafter.



It's been a tough three months, but it won't be much longer!

Some pictures from the move are located on Page 8.

WASH 2009 Christmas / Holiday Party

Plans for the Christmas party are definite. It will take place on the 15th of January 2010 at 6.30pm, food will be served between 7&7.30pm. It will be held at the Bethel Park Fire Hall, on Brightwood Road in Bethel Park. More info on directions will come at a later date.

The cost of the party will be \$12.00 per person. We will also have our Chinese Auction.

I will take reservations until December 30th. However, I would like to be paid by the December meeting. If that is not possible I will accept payment by mail no later than December 30th. If payment is made by check, please make it out to me, Carol Danko.

The menu is as follows:

- ◆ Sautéed Chicken Romano
- ◆ Slow Roasted Top Round w/Mushrooms in Au jus
- ◆ English Style Baked Scrod
- ◆ Baked Ziti in Tomato Sauce
- ◆ Vegetable Medley
- ◆ Parsley Potatoes w/Seasoned Crumbs
- ◆ Garden Tossed Salad
- ◆ Assorted Dinner Rolls
- ◆ Coffee and Pop
- ◆ Cake and Cookies



BYOB if you prefer a beverage of alcohol.

There will be more information as time goes on.

—73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

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Next Meeting: December 10th, 2009

The next monthly meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be Thursday, December 10th, at the Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, starting at 7:00 PM.

The WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest, WASHFest 2010, the Christmas/Holiday Party, and planning for the next year are on the agenda.

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

"Seen" at the November Meeting



Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2009 Ron Notarius W3WN



WASH 2010 OFFICERS

THE LEGAL STUFF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Ron Notarius W3WN
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	Bob Timmins AB3ED
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
Field Day 2010 Coordinators	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 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 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 N3SH-W3SRL 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 January 21st

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 21st, 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, April 15th, 2010
 Thursday, July 17th, 2010
 Thursday, October 21st, 2010
 Thursday, January 20th, 2011

A new Technician Class question pool will be released to the public on January 1st, 2010, according to NCVEC (the National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators). The questions in the new test pool will become effective on July 1st, 2010

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, once termed the battle of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) in Manassas, Virginia as the "Third Battle of Bull Run." While the war against harmful interference to Amateur Radio via BPL is not yet over, the battle in Manassas might soon be coming to an end.

In a Special Meeting on Monday, November 16 of the Manassas City Council, the Council voted "To allow the [City of Manassas] Utility Commission to make a recommendation to the [Manassas] City Manager as part of the FY 2011 Budget regarding the decision to continue offering Internet service; additionally, staff was instructed to discontinue all marketing and advertising of Internet service." This motion passed 4-2.

At the meeting, Manassas Director of Utilities Michael Moon told the Council that "it is not cost-effective to continue the internet service on the Main.net BPL communication system as a stand-alone cost center" and that the City "need[s] to make the decision for internet service in the context of what communication system will be used for the City's AMI [Advanced Metering Infrastructure]."

Sumner said that the Manassas BPL system was "once touted as 'the most successful BPL deployment in the nation.' Manassas actually has demonstrated that there is no business case for BPL as a consumer broadband delivery medium."

According to the News and Messenger, a local newspaper that serves the Manassas area, Councilman Jonathan Way said that the City "needs[s] to get out of BPL forthwith. It's not a good product. The whole business is not financially sound and it never has been." Councilman Mark Wolfe agreed with Way, saying he wanted to see the system shut down by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, starting the shutdown process now.

The newspaper reported that the City of Manassas' Utility Commission proposed to make the decision whether to shut down the system by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2010. While Wolfe and Way want it shut down before that date, Councilmen Marc Aveni and Vice Mayor Andy Harrover argued to leave BPL out of the City's next budget; by doing this, there will be no funding for the service and it will go and die what the News and Messenger called "a natural

Continued on Page 3

November 28th was a "normal" last Saturday for the 11th month... between turkey leftovers and Black Friday recovery, most people took advantage of a long weekend to sleep in. But not the valiant few of **the WASH Breakfast Gang at The Beach House** in Finleyville. This month, the awake ones included AE3DL, W9UK, W3RJM & W3WN. Over hot coffee, eggs, sausage, pancakes and toast, discussions of the morning included the .955 repeater situation, Pasta Too, call sign changes, call hoarding, operating from VP2M, the *Oasis of the Seas*, the USS John F. Kennedy (anyone want an aircraft carrier free? You haul!), pizza tossing, "you let the smoke out," programming GPS's, QCWA, cavern tours, motorcycle racing, college and pro football weekends, Field Day sites past, and a ton more.

Ready to find out what you've missed after this month's "Ho Ho Ho's"? Join us "the day after" for our next Club Breakfast on Saturday, December 26th, at **The Beach House**, Library Road, Finleyville, just south of Trax Farm. Come down & share a good time with us!

Date Correction on 2 Meter Contest: N3ZNI & N3ZEL have let us know that the correct date for the 2010 **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** is January 9th, the second Saturday in the month. The 16th had been listed since it was the weekend prior to the January VHF contest. Fortunately, we have plenty of time to make sure the correct word gets out, so when you start talking about the contest, make sure the right date gets used. And, sorry about that...

The 146.955 Repeater situation, as you saw on Page 1, is almost resolved. Fortunately, the machine is in its new home, and is just awaiting some fine tuning. Once everything is up and running, Steve will bring everyone up to date. A little more patience is required.

One thing that was observed at the new site is that the antenna that we're using has been up for over 10 years. All things considered, it may be prudent to be prepared to invest in a new antenna for the system. No, it's not exactly cheap, but if we want the system to last a good long while, it may well be a worthwhile investment. What, you may be wondering, about the "old" .955 antenna? Well, it had also been in use for around 10 years, and from what we're told, the fiberglass is shot. So if we're going to replace the existing antenna, we may as well bite the bullet and put up one that will last another 10 years, not one that may also be nearing the end of its life. Something to discuss at the December meeting.

New Call: Ted Pinsker, still known to many as WN3BOJ, has changed calls again to reflect his new status as an Extra. Ted is now WW3TP. Congratulations! But Ted... don't take this the wrong way, but you really don't have to tie or break the "former calls held" record of that ham in Rankin...

WASHFest 2010 will be here before you know it. Ye Editor spoke with Atlantic Division Director N3LLR, and Bill tells us that he and WPA Section Manager N3MSE are looking forward to being there. In addition, Ye Editor had a nice conversation with WPA DXCC Card Checker NQ3A, and Art has also indicated that he can be available for the hamfest. We may have other surprises on that front upcoming...

Speaking of things that will be here before you know it... the annual **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** will be upon us in just a few short weeks, believe it or not! It's time to start talking this up on the repeaters, and the 2010 document package will be available on the club websites shortly. Can you believe this is our tenth one already?

WASHNet

2009 NCS Schedule

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 12/06 — Special Guest! | 12/27 — Dave N3IDH |
| 12/13 — Harold K3HCR | 01/03 — Bob AB3ED |
| 12/20 — Carol KB3GMN or Richie N3SBF | 01/10 — Kevin N3HKQ |

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2010 Today! Membership Application on Page 13!!

Minutes, November 12th Meeting

Ron Notarius W3WN, Acting Secretary, **WASH**

Larry K3VX, called the meeting to order at 19:04 hours. There were 19 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 September 2009 meeting as published in the October newsletter. (There was no formal meeting in October) 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): Next exam is January 21st, 2010.

Nominations for 2010 Officers:

Ron W3WN nominated for President at the October dinner meeting (1 year term). No further nominations from the floor. Move to close nominations by Ed N3ZNI, seconded by Carol KB3GMN, and accepted unanimously. President K3VX directed the club Secretary to cast one vote for W3WN, and he was declared the winner. (applause)

Mark N3RDV nominated for Vice President/Secretary at the October dinner meeting (2 year term). No further nominations from the floor. Move to close nominations by Ed N3ZNI, seconded by Carol KB3GMN, and accepted unanimously. President K3VX directed the club Secretary to cast one vote for N3RDV, and he was declared the winner. (applause)

Repeaters (N3RNX, W3SRL & N3FB: The N3SH 2-meter and W3SRL 70-cm repeater are expected back on the air "soon" depending on scheduling.

Net Report (N3HKQ): No Report

Contests (K3VX): ARRL Phone Sweepstakes 1600 EST November 21st through 2200 EST November 22nd. Good way to check out your SSB signal on the HF bands. ARRL 160 and 10 meter contests coming up in December.

The N3ZK and W3WN Pa QSO teams reported that they had Clean Sweeps of all 67 Pa Counties in the 2009 contest.

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

Public Service (N3RDV): WPA Simulated Emergency Test was October 31st using fldigi to exercise digital modes for emergency communications. Harry W3YJ, who is the new EC for Allegheny County, is the fldigi expert.

Christmas/Holiday Party (KB3GMN): Party will be moved to "end of season" in January. (We will have a December meeting but not a January meeting as a result). Details are in the newsletter and on the reflector. A big thanks to Carol KB3GMN for organizing it.

Tower Trailer (N3SBF): Trailer has been repaired and is ready to go.

President's Report (K3VX): WACOM had not purchased the Fox Hunt transmitter controller as of November 1st, so this looks like a Spring 2010 activity. Old Business: Nothing mentioned.

Old Business: Still looking at possibilities for new meeting place. Ron W3LE made some suggestions and will look into them.

New Business: Glen KE7FD has suggested formation of teams to help with technical and operating issues such as antennas, RFI, digital modes, EmComm, and contesting.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by W3WH, seconded by KB3GMN. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 19:48 EST.

Program: Brief talk on Foxhunting by Bud N3TIR.

**BPL Continued
From Page 4**

death."

According to the newspaper, Way said that waiting until the end of the fiscal year to make the decision "would cost more money because the city couldn't just turn off the service overnight once the decision is made." Forecasts by the Utility Commission show that the City's BPL service is projected to lose up to \$171,353 each year over the next nine years. Way said that's money the city could ill afford to lose: BPL, he said, "should go and be over and done with."

Manassas residents pay \$24.95 each month to receive Internet service via BPL. The Utility Commission showed the Council that little more than 500 residents and 46 businesses currently subscribe to the service.

WASH Spotlight: Dinner



KC4WTT, WB4GCS & K3HCR having a good time at the October **WASH** Dinner/Meeting at *Al's Café*. (Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2009 Ron W3WN)

Hope that you'll join in the festivities for our "end of season" Christmas/Holiday Party next month, and best to all this holiday season!

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

Monthly WASH Breakfast

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



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

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

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3ED	KB3IAC	N3QMV	WB3CAI	WASH FL	WASH VI
AB3EN	KB3IRQ	N3RDV	WB4GCS	KA3UPY/MM	NP2JF
AE3DL	KB3IVW	N3SBF	WO3Z	W4ZE	Silent
AC4KU	KB3IVX	N3TIR		WASH GA	Keys
K3AIR	KB3ORR	N3ZEL	Mary Jean Senk	K3OL	K3EED
K3AVQ	KB3SRB	N3ZNI		KB3IJX	(George)
K3GW	KB3SVX	N9OKM	Jane Wagner	WASH NC	KA3NMG
K3HCR	KC4WTT	NU3S		N3RNX	KB3ENX
K3LGM	KE7FD	W3LE		WASH NE	KB3FNM
K3SGT	N1NCZ	W3RJM		NØPEU	KB3FQT
K3VX	N2QIV	W3RWS		WASH OH	N3FZ
K3WJL	N3AWF	W3SRL		N8DPW	N3KEH
KA3TWI	N3BPB	W3VFA		WASH TN	N3OBD
KB3DCO	N3CZZ	W3WH		KE3XB	N3SKR
KB3GMN	N3DFK	W3WN		N3YPB	N3SRC
KB3GMP	N3FB	WA3JPP		WASH TX	N3XFE
KB3GMU	N3HKQ	WA3NB		K3LGM	W3ZLK
KB3HFP	N3PN	WA3RVD		Jane Wagner	

Through December 6TH, 2009

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2009 – 10 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

December 10 th	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
December 12 th – 13 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 31 st	ARRL Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 2 nd – 3 rd	ARRL RTTY Roundup	http://www.arrl.org
January 3 rd	ARRL Kid's Day	http://www.arrl.org
January 9 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
January 14 th	No WASH Meeting	Holiday Party Next Day!!
January 15 th	WASH Christmas/Holiday Party	Bethel Park VFD
January 21 st	WASH VEC Exam	Pre-register via n3zel@comcast.net
January 23 rd — 25 th	ARRL January VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
February 11 th	WASH Meeting	Final WASHFest Planning Session
February 14 th	BVARA TechFest	http://www.w3sgj.org
February 20 th -21 st	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 28 th	WASHFest 2010	http://www.n3sh.org
March 6 th – 7 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 11 th	WASH Meeting	Post Hamfest Pizza Night
March 27 th – 28 th	CQ WPX Contest SSB	http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com
April 8 th	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
April 15 th	WASH VEC Exam	Pre-register via n3zel@comcast.net
May 13 th	WASH Meeting	To Be Announced
May 14 th – 16 th	DAYTON HAMVENTION	http://www.hamvention.org
June 6 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org
June 10 th	WASH Meeting	Field Day Final Planning Session
June 12 th – 14 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 26 th – 27 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org

There's More Than One Way to Operate Mobile

Kevin Smith N3HKQ's Pennsylvania QSO Party Journey

Photos Page 6 & 7 are Courtesy of and ©Copyright 2009 Kevin Smith N3HKQ

2009 marked the year I would operate the PA QSO mobile; sort of. I did this by inviting my wife Peg and myself to the K3VX/W3WH operating site in Armstrong County, then to the N3ZK operation in Venango and finally to the W3WN operating site in Allegheny County. From what I read and heard about mobile operating there is usually some adventure involved and for Peg and me we got the adventure out of the way first thing.

The Armstrong county site was located at a cabin on the estate of The Vineyard by Mellon near Freeport, PA. This sounded very nice but I was warned by Larry and Bill that the road or driveway (both terms used most

advisedly) leading to the operating location would be a little rough and steep. The morning started out with rain but subsided as we proceeded from home to the Armstrong site. All was well until the so called driveway lay before me. I proceeded cautiously up the hill losing speed and traction until it felt like I was climbing a street on the South Side of Pittsburgh only on this road my tires were also spewing rocks and mud. It proved no use and I backed down the hill almost all the way to the main road. This time I gunned the engine and went as fast as I could to climb the hill, throwing rocks and mud everywhere behind me and fishtailing back and forth until I finally reached the crest of the hill.

By this time it was between 9:30 and 10:00 AM and I found Larry and Bill with the proprietor of the establishment assembling one of two fiberglass telescoping poles that would support both a 40 and 80-meter dipole. If there is something that can make grown men look foolish, the fiberglass poles are it. By 12:30 PM the 40 and 80 meter dipoles were finally up but now Larry and Bill wanted to put up a long wire for 160-meters. The wire went up reasonably easy but there were problems with powering the SGC tuner and the feed line. I happened to have a 75-ft run of RG-8 that I left with hopes of solving the feed line problem. By this time it was between 1:30 and 2:00 PM and we needed to leave for our next stop in Venango County.

Bill felt they were in good shape and would be on the air soon. In fact I learned later that indeed they were on the air shortly after Peg and I left.

The day had turned very sunny and the drive north to Venango County and the N3ZK operation was gorgeous to say the least. Peg and I arrived to Randy George's Mom's home near Franklin PA around 3:30 PM. It was quite a drive!

The N3ZK operation can be described by two words; organization and food!

The N3ZK crew consisted of Kevin DeRose (talk about rare DX), Frank Bobro, Brian Cox and Randy of course. Also gracing everyone with a brief visit were the mobile operating dynamic duo of Ed Oelschlager and Dave Wagner.

Team George invaded his Mom's home on Thursday evening and had most of Friday to assemble the multi-op station and work out the bugs. Four operating positions were set up on the dining room table with coax cables running out of the house somewhere that I could not find. As soon as I arrived, Randy gave up his operating position to me and I operated for almost an hour and enjoyed every minute.

It was getting late and I had planned to make a third stop at the home of Ron Notarius, W3WN so Peg and I departed around 5:30 PM. After thinking that we should stop for dinner somewhere, Peg and I realized that it would be 9 or 9:30 PM before getting to Ron's home. I called Ron and asked if I could visit the next day after church and he said that would be fine. After dinner at the King's in Wexford Peg and I finally got home in Monongahela around 9:30PM.



After church and breakfast I drove to Ron's home with a greeting that he had just completed a clean sweep! I don't think I ever saw Ron with a smile as big as he had that afternoon. Ron was done operating and the station was mine to operate; which I did for about an hour, adding about 10 more contacts. Ron treated me to hot dogs and Jesse's brownies along with a tour of the yard and Ron's plans for the back yard (including a new vertical antenna).

Next year I look to operate more traditionally in a single place but I will not soon forget the 2009 PA QSO Party operating "mobile". It was a modest effort perhaps but a most enjoyable way to spend an early October weekend.

Thanks to my three hosts and to my wife Peg who I think also enjoyed herself.

More N3HKQ Pa
QSO Pictures
on Page 7



Antennas @ W3WH/Armstrong



N3HKQ Pictures continued from Page 6



N3ZK/ARM



W3WH & K3VX at the W3WH/ARM cabin

These pictures courtesy of and ©Copyright
2009 Kevin Smith N3HKQ



K3LGM & N3ZNI



The View from W3WH/ARM... a QSL Card Photo?

Scott Robbins W4PA, of Knoxville, Tennessee, told the ARRL that he has signed an agreement to purchase The Vibroplex Company, Inc. from present owner Felton "Mitch" Mitchell W4OA, effective December 21st, 2009. "Vibroplex represents the great tradition of CW operation in Amateur Radio going back many, many years," Robbins told the ARRL. "I'm tickled to be able to continue the more than 100 years of history that has gone into this company."

Robbins — who has been employed with Ten-Tec Inc since 1995 (he has been Product Manager for Ten-Tec's Amateur Radio equipment line since 1997) — will leave his position in mid-December to take over full-time management and ownership of Vibroplex. "It's a great opportunity to continue the more than 100 years of tradition that the Vibroplex name represents," Robbins said. "I've known Mitch for quite a few years and it was an important consideration for both of us that Vibroplex continue operation building quality products for Amateur Radio long into the future. Mitch's experience owning the company will be valuable as we proceed with a seamless ownership transition over the next few weeks."

Robbins told the ARRL that he will move Vibroplex from its present location in Mobile, Alabama to Knoxville, Tennessee during the last two weeks of December, with a planned opening date of January 5th, 2010. Vibroplex's toll-free sales line (800) 840-8873, Web site and e-mail contact addresses will remain in continuous operation under the new ownership, he said.

"My first Vibroplex paddle was given to me in 1980 by my father, W2DR; when I left home to attend the University of North Carolina in 1988, a rig, some wire and the key went with me," Robbins said. "Close to 30 years later, it's still on the table — along with two Vibroplex products I've purchased. I used a Vibroplex chrome iambic to win the 2006 ARRL DX CW contest from Barbados as 8P9PA, and I will certainly be using one at the WRTC 2010 competition in Russia this July."

Robbins told the ARRL that he has enjoyed his 14 year career at Ten-Tec, calling it his first "real job" when he was fresh out of college: "I have met literally thousands of hams over the years because of Ten-Tec — all those exciting years when we were designing new rigs and I was writing the manuals for the Omni-VII and Orion; I'm really proud of what has been accomplished there. I am sure that Ten-Tec and Vibroplex will have some common ground in the future — both companies already did one commemorative key together back in 2002. Another one would be great!"

— [ARRL Web Extra](#) courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

.955 Repeater Move

Pictures Courtesy of & ©Copyright 2009 Ron Notarius W3WN

On December 4th, 2009, Rich N3SBF, Bill W3WH, Larry K3VX & Ron W3WN assisted Steve W3SRL in moving the 146.955 & 442.550 Repeaters from their temporary home (since last August) in his garage to their new home.

The move itself went well, but the repeaters still need a little TLC before becoming fully functional again. Steve has asked that until everything is up & running again, he'd prefer that the new location not yet be made public.

We're almost there... patience!



Securing the Repeater Rack



About to load up N3SBF's truck



Arrival at their new home



FCC Looks to Revise, Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules

On Wednesday, November 25, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) — [WT Docket No. 09-209](#) — seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.

According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

The Commission did not, however, specify all of the procedures governing the vanity call sign system, but indicated that the procedures "would be set out in the Public Notices announcing 'starting gates' for the groups receiving initial priority and that the procedures would be adjusted from gate to gate as experience dictated." The procedures announced in the Public Notices announcing the gates are still in effect, but they are not set forth in the Commission's Rules. The NPRM states that the FCC "now believe[s] that certain provisions should be codified in our rules, and others added, so that the vanity call sign system will be fair, equitable and transparent to all amateur service licensees. The Commission also decided in the Vanity Report and Order [issued in 1996] to resume issuing new club station licenses. We believe that certain rule changes to the club station licensing rules may be appropriate."

Availability of Call Signs Assigned to Stations of Deceased Licensees

Normally, the call sign of a deceased amateur is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years after the license expires or is canceled. With the NPRM, the FCC wants to clarify the process by which such call signs become available for reassignment.

In order for a vanity call sign to be assigned to an amateur, the call sign must be assignable at the time the application is processed. Even if a licensee is deceased, the call sign is not available if the license is still active in the FCC database. When the FCC receives what they call "proper documentation of the licensee's passing" (a signed request for license cancellation accompanied by a copy of a death certificate, an obituary or data from the Social Security Death Index [SSDI] that shows the date of death), they then cancel the license as of the licensee's date of death.

"We propose to amend our rules to codify these procedures by adding a new paragraph to Section 97.21," the NPRM states; currently, the procedure for canceling a license due to the grantee's death is outlined on the FCC's Web site, but is not codified in their rules. "We believe that this will make our cancellation process more equitable and transparent, and facilitate the availability of desirable call signs," according to the NPRM.

The FCC calls their rules "ambiguous" concerning call signs that become available for reassignment "as to whether the waiting period runs from the date of death or the date that the Commission cancels the license in light of the licensee's death." As such, they are proposing to amend the rules "to clarify that a license that is canceled due to the licensee's death is deemed to have been canceled as of the date of death, regardless of when the licensing database is updated to reflect the licensee's death."

**FCC NPRM
Continued
on Page 11**

Announcing the Tenth Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Tenth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Everyone who participated in it the last nine years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 9th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 9th, 2007 from 7 to 11 PM EST.
(That's January 10th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.520 to 147.580 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 is **not** to be used. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for SSB QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of **WASH** or a Club Station.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3 ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, established nets, and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The contest committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty, especially if the committee is unable to obtain log information for verification.

Scoring: Each Contact, non-**WASH** Member: 1 point
WASH Member: 2 points
(*) Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes

Power: Stations running 10 watts or less: 2

Stations running over 10 watts: 1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

(*) "**Club Stations**" for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada or equivalent to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. For example, they include **N3SH, WA3SH, NP2SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W8XK, W1AW**, etc. The call **MUST** be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible. [In other words, you can't just claim to be a

"club" and pick a call, or use the call of a club member; the call must be assigned as a club call]

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the **WASH** web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1st.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
60 Carl Avenue B2
Eighty Four, PA 15330-2829

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.
Entry Deadline: February 7th, 2010

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a main prize ticket to WASHFest 2010 on February 28th

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

After the first year of the contest, we found that the limited number of frequencies suggested in the rules were insufficient for the activity level. In subsequent years, we permitted use of any recognized simplex frequency, as per the ARRL recommended guidelines published in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory and other sources, above 146.520 MHz.

You will note that many of these frequencies are listed as potential dual use, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

We have been notified that the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC) has issued their own "local" band plan for the 2 meter band, and has elected to withdraw most or all of these dual-use or optional-use frequencies in favor of their being assigned to FM repeaters, primarily those on 1 MHz splits. Although we have not heard of interference problems with any repeater (with ONE exception — the contest participant was notified of interference and immediately moved), good amateur practice requires us to take note of the situation and the potential for interference problems in some parts of Western Pennsylvania where these repeaters exist.

The following list of recommended frequencies are recognized as standard simplex channels and should not suffer from co-channel problems with any existing repeaters:

146.535 MHz	147.525 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.540 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.580 MHz	147.570 MHz
146.595 MHz	

The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, may not be used. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

To be clear, we have no objection to contest participants operating on additional recognized FM "optional" simplex frequencies above 146.520 MHz. Participants who do so run the risk of potential interference with repeaters sharing these frequencies, and therefore do so at their own risk. Again, as per the rules of the contest, if you operate on these frequencies and are notified of actual interference, please exercise good amateur practice and QSY.

We also recognize that the WPRC may continue to be less than happy with this stance. We point out to them that the amateur spectrum is a shared resource. And frankly, if push came to shove, the legality of their "withdrawing" of the frequencies from use by the general amateur population of WPA might be an interesting question before the FCC. (To say nothing of the fact that this change in band plan is probably something most WPA amateurs are unaware of, but that's another story).

Bottom line: Enjoy the contest, but do so responsibly.

Please Note the Correct Date for the 2010 Contest is January 9th, the second Saturday in January. Due to a misunderstanding, the date has previously been incorrectly listed.

My First Memory

Rodney C. Hilsabeck AJ4CT courtesy of www.eham.net

My 1st memory was sitting at my dad's elbow, while he pounded brass as a telegrapher on the wire, for the railroad in 1956 at Collins, IA., and later at the Sebula, IA. Draw bridge.

After moving to Springville, IA. In 1958, dad went to work for Collins Radio, in Cedar Rapids, IA., in the model shop, where he and other machinists would transform engineer drawings into Collins Radio works of art, one that became the 30L-1.

At the age of 11 my Phonetic Alphabet was pretty good, and my beginner's code test Element 1 (A) that dad had taught me over the years became second nature. In 1962 Collins Radio had a youth radio program and my 1ST "Elmer", besides my dad was Emory Lewis an engineer, and member of our church, who held meetings in his basement.

We learned radio theory. I still have my book, *Ameco Amateur Radio Theory Course*, dated 1956. I attended many open houses for family's at Collins; by then my mom also worked on the printed circuit line, and taught me how to care for my solder iron. Also built my 1st "Heath-kit", never understood why Heath-kit when Emory's basement was crammed with Collins equipment, and a visit now and then by Art Collins.

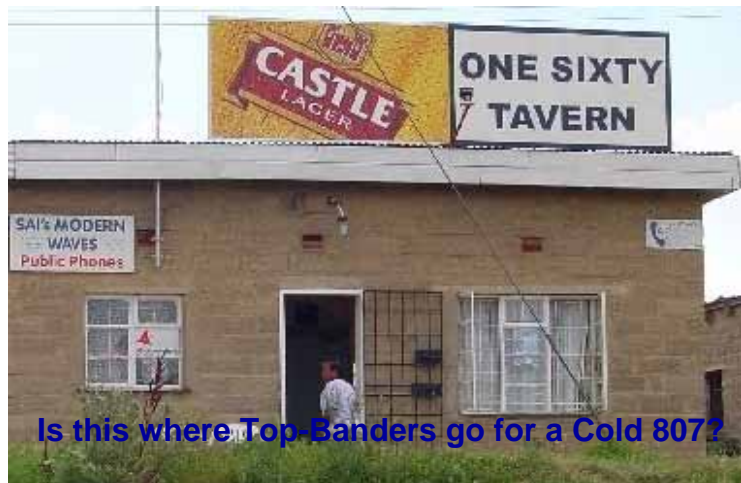
Received my ticket after passing Novice Class: Elements 1(A) and 3(A), On my 10TH birthday 1964, dad gave me my 1ST Key, his old DOW-KEY serial No. 1567 that I still have to this day.

My late 60's found me to be a wild-child, and an AUDIOPHILE up late listening to Becker Street, Station KAAV out of Little Rock, AR.

Joined the Navy in 1972, as a Data System Tech. in OE Division, with computer's as big as a side-by-side refrigerator and that wonderful Collins equipment. I had lost my ticket but kept in touch with CONUS, from the MED, via MARS.

Finally got my ticket again, Amateur Extra "AJ4CT", and my MARS "NNNØUTG" for old times sake, but my MARS may not be active, have dusted off the DOW-KEY but need to break-out the Brasso and polish-up A LOT.

That bad case of Audiophilia Nervosa that I had in the 60's and 70's has paid off and went to the Valves vs. solid-state. I just bought a Collins 30L-1 Linear off E-bay; wish me luck.



VU Hams Get 30 Meters

Prasad Rajagopal VU2PTT

The Wireless Planning & Communication (WPC) Wing of the Ministry of Communications in India has written to Gopal VU2GMN (President, Amateur Radio Society of India) to inform that **10100 to 10150 kHz** has been allocated to Amateur Services on a secondary basis in India.

This means that VU2 hams are free to use this on a non-interference basis with existing users of these frequencies. Earlier, temporary permission was issued from time to time for this WARC band.

It has also been communicated to Gopal that the 50-52 MHz (6M) band cannot be allocated now since it has already been allocated to other services. Hopefully we can still get some spot frequencies there in future.

See you on 10 MHz, finally...

DX News Briefs



ON5TN has been active as **OR4TN** from the Belgian Antarctic base "Princess Elisabeth", Antarctica since 1 December. He will remain there until the end of January 2010, with activity on the amateur radio bands during his spare time. Look for him between 2001 and 2300 UTC around 7007 (CW) and 7077 (SSB). QSL via ON5TN

W4JJ is now QRV as **T6LC** from Gardez (Paktia Province), Afghanistan. He expects to operate mainly on 40 and 20 metres CW and SSB, 1430-1800 UTC as time permits. QSL via K4MJN — W4JJ

D2CQ (ex D2PJB) expected to QRT in late November, but is now reported to remain in Angola until 27 December. He operates SSB only. QSL via CT1IUA — F5NQL, 425 DX

EA1BT will be active on the HF bands as **TO1BT** from **Martinique** 8-15 December. QSL via home call — F5NQL, 425 DX

VK9WBM will be working at the weather station on Willis Island (OC-007) for the next six months. He plans to operate on the HF bands and 6 meters in his spare time. QSL via VK4DMC — www.southgatearc.org

An inter-national group of operators will be active as **3W6C** from Con Co Island (AS-185), Vietnam, 10—18 April 2010. They report that they have an opening for "one more additional experienced CW op." More information available at <http://www.3w6c.qrv.ch> — Helvetia Telegraphy Club

The Radio Club Station of Tunisian Scouts 3V8ST will be commemorating their 10TH anniversary as **3V1ØA** through 31 December — 3V8ST

Captain Jack Sparrow sighting: W3AWU, who has held the **C6AWU** call since 2008, reports that recent activity from this call is from Slim. He does plan to return to Bimini NA-048 in the future — W3AWU

W4FOA reports that thanks to "the incredible work of Art Burke N4PJ and Kenny Young AB4GG," the logs of **EL2AD** (1963-65), **7Q7AA** and **PY1ZBA** are now on Logbook of the World. — W4FOA

If you worked 3W5FM from Vietnam, it may be too late to get a QSL card. He became a Silent Key in 2003. His daughter was handling the logs for a time, but does not appear to have done so lately — W3UR

If you still have IRC's that expire in 2009... now is the time to use them or cash them in. They will be mailing stuffers after the end of the month!

QSL manager UA9AB has changed his address:

Gene Shcumat UA9AB
PO Box 18527
Chelyabinsk 454021
RUSSIA

— KØDEQ

QSL Routes

3D2GM via PG5M — DO1DXX	FM1FV via W3HNC — K6GEP
3XM6JR via UA6JR — MMØBQN	GB5KIL via GØSGB — DO1DXX
4L5O via N3SL — WO2N	GPØSTH via G4DIY — JA1HGY
4U1UN via HB9BOU — DO1DXX	GT4IOM via GD4WBY — DO1DXX
4W6AL via CT1GFK — JRØAMD	J5AUP via HA3AU1 — LU2DKN
7P8MM via WØMM — JA1HGY	J79ZG via DLK7AFS — W9OL
7P8OK via MØURX — JA1HGY	KL5Ø via AC7DX — W3WN
7Q7HB via GØIAS — DO1DXX	OX2A via OZ1ACB — JA1HGY
8R1DB via N3DB — G4GED	OY3AA via OZ1ACB — JA1HGY
9J2FM via JA4ATV — DO1DXX	R1ANB via RN1ON — KG6D
A61BK via NI5DX — JA1HGY	T3ØGM via PG5M — DO1DXX
A73A via EA7FTR — GUØSUP	TK9X via EA4URE — JA1HGY
AY7X via WA9EWK — DO1DXX	V8AQM via W3HNC — DO1DXX
C21TI via EA4ATI — K6GEP	YJ8TZ via VK3ATZ — K6GEP
C31CT via EA3QS — VE3EXY	VK9GMX via HA7RY — K6GEP
CP4BT via EA5KB — W2IRT	VK9LA via VK4FW — EU7SA
DX1J via JA1HGY — DO1DXX	YS1MAE via W3HNC — W4DN
E51NOU via N7OU — JA1HGY	YT36QRP via YU7CM — VE3EXY
EK6LP via DL8KAC — KRØO	ZF2DX via N7CW — W4DN
FK8GM via WB2RAJ — W5TFW	ZK2NX via JM1CAX — JA1HGY

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

The Ferry Building, 127 S. McKean St., Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724-431-0400 Fax: 724-431-0401
lazaroff@murrinlaw.com

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

More information at his web site, Randy George Woodworking <http://www.randygeorgewoodworking.com/>

See his eBay store for special deals at http://stores.shop.ebay.com/Randy-George-Custom-Signs_W0QQ_armrsZ1



FCC NPRM

Continued from Page 8

But according to the FCC, this "can create an arguably inequitable situation. We often receive a request from an unrelated person to cancel the license of a licensee who died more than two years earlier, and a vanity application from the same person requesting the deceased's call sign." The Commission stated in the NPRM that since the cancellation request is not usually processed before the application requesting the call sign is received, only the applicant knows that the deceased's call sign is about to be available for reassignment.

The FCC proposes to modify their processes to ensure that the deceased's call sign is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for at least 30 days after the staff updates the licensing database to reflect the licensee's death. "Specifically, we propose to amend the rules to provide that the call sign shown on a license that is canceled due to the death of a licensee more than two years earlier remain[s] unavailable to the vanity call sign system for 30 days following the date the staff takes action to cancel the license. Providing a short period after we process a cancellation request would allow the assignability of a desirable call sign to become known, and would provide an opportunity for other licensees to apply for the call sign. This would further the major concern expressed by the Amateur Service community that the vanity call sign system be fair."

Exceptions to the Two Year Waiting Period

In certain situations, the FCC will issue a vanity call sign to an amateur before the two year waiting period has expired. Back in 1996 when the vanity program came into being, the FCC made exceptions, allowing those licensees who formerly held a call sign to apply for that call sign ahead of other licensees. The Commission noted that such an exception "was perceived as fair by the amateur service community generally, and this exception has been included in various public announcements detailing the procedures of the vanity call sign system." Since this exception is not noted in the FCC's rules, the NPRM seeks to amend the rules reflect this exception.

With the advent of the vanity call sign program, the Commission also decided to allow close relatives of a deceased former holder of a call sign to apply for that call sign ahead of other licensees, provided that the relative holds the requisite class of operator license. The Commission defined "close relatives" to include, among others, an in-law of the deceased former holder. In order to avoid any confusion, the FCC proposes to amend Section 97.3 to define the term "in-law" to include only a parent or stepparent of a licensee's spouse; a licensee's spouse's sibling; the spouse of a licensee's spouse's sibling; or the spouse of a licensee's sibling, child or stepchild." The other "close relatives" are the deceased former holder's spouse, children, grandchildren, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, stepparents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Another exception to the two year waiting period applies to licenses for club stations who request the call sign of a deceased licensee "when the club station trustee has the written consent of a close relative of the deceased. The exception was intended to apply only to clubs of which the deceased was a member, but this limitation is not reflected in our rules (though it is specified in other Commission pronouncements regarding the vanity call sign system)."

Ineligible Applicants

When a vanity call sign application is granted, the call sign currently assigned to the licensee's station is surrendered and is not available to the vanity call sign system for two years. Occasionally, the FCC said, vanity call sign applications have been granted to applicants who "erroneously or fraudulently indicated that they fell within an exception to the two-year waiting period. Sometimes, after the situation is brought to the applicant's attention, the applicant applies for and is assigned another call sign, thereby surrendering the improperly obtained call sign."

Under the usual procedure, the FCC stated that the improperly obtained call sign would not be available to the vanity call sign system for another two years, but because this additional delay would be "unfair to prospective applicants who expected the call sign to become assignable at the end of the original two-year period, the Gate 3 and Gate 4 Public Notices specifically stated, 'Where a vanity call sign for which the most recent recipient was ineligible is surrendered, cancelled, revoked or voided, the two year requirement does not apply.'

The policy mentioned in the Gate 3 and Gate 4 Public Notices is not codified in the Commission's rules. As such, the FCC proposes to amend Section 97.19(c) to clarify that "a new two-year period does not commence when the most recent recipient acknowledges, or the Commission determines, that the recipient was not eligible to be assigned the call sign. Information regarding the acknowledgement or determination of ineligibility will be posted to the license in the Commission's Universal Licensing System (ULS) so that other licensees will be able to recognize that the surrender did not commence a new two-year waiting period."

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC NPRM
Continued
on Page 14



WASHfest 2010

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **FIFTEENTH** big year!

Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 28th, 2010

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

Special Guests:

Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar N3LLR
WPA Section Manager John Rodgers N3MSE
WPA DXCC Card Checker Art Lund NQ3A

FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA

Breakfast & Lunch
provided by JACK'S
CATERING
of Peters Township

MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to play to WIN!

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- 2nd Prize: ICOM IC-91A/D 2 M/70 cm D-STAR
- 3rd Prize: Heil BM 10-5 Boom Headset



Additional Hourly Door Prizes!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

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



Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

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



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2010



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

(check quarter _____ →)
(check one)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr 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: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

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: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Signature: _____

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

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



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



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

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

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

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

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

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

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Dues subject to change without notice



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FCC Vanity Call NPRM

Other Club Station Licensing Issues

For purposes of club station licensing, the FCC defines a club as "a group with at least four persons and that has a name, a document of organization, management, and a primary purpose devoted to amateur service activities consistent with Part 97." A licensee trustee is designated by an officer of the club to hold the club station license grant.

The NPRM stated that sometimes the Commission receives disputes regarding just who is the club's trustee in the context of a contested application to modify the license to change the trustee: "In order to avoid Commission involvement in what are essentially internal club matters, and to ensure that an application changing the trustee of a club station reflects the intent of the club, we propose to amend the rules to require that applications requesting a change in trustee include documentation signed by an officer of the club when the application is submitted to the Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA). Additionally, we believe that by accepting applications only from the licensee the club station record in ULS shows is the trustee of the club station, the CSCSA can minimize the number of disputed applications that are filed with us."

While the Commission's rules limit individuals to holding only one operator/primary station license grant and, therefore, one call sign, "there is no similar limit on how many license grants a club may hold," the NPRM said. "This affords club stations an advantage over individuals seeking desirable call signs, reduces the pool of vanity call signs available to individuals and other club stations, and increases the possibility of conflict over particular call signs. We therefore propose to limit club stations to holding one license grant and, consequently, one call sign. Clubs that currently hold more than one call sign would not be allowed to obtain any more call signs, but could renew or modify their existing station license grants."

The FCC also proposes to permit Novice class licensees to serve as club station trustees. The Commission noted that there was an historical prohibition against Novice class licensees serving as club station trustees since Novice licenses originally were not renewable. Because such licenses now may be renewed on the same basis as any other Amateur Service license, "we believe that this prohibition is no longer necessary," the NPRM noted.

FCC Seeks Comments on Proposed Changes

In its NPRM, the Commission said that it is their belief "that the public interest will be served by amending certain rules in order to make the Amateur Service's vanity call sign system more equitable and transparent. We also propose changes in the rules governing club station licensing, to promote equitable and administratively efficient processes. We therefore seek comment on these proposed rule changes. In addition, we invite commenters to propose any other amendments to the rules governing the vanity call sign system and club station licensing."

The comment period for WT Docket No. 09-209 will extend for 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. Historically, items appear in the Federal Register approximately 7-10 days after they appear on the FCC Web site. Reply comments can be made up to 75 days after publication in the Federal Register. Information on how to make comments can be found in the NPRM.

The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

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