



*Christmas/Holiday  
Party Memories!*

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 01  
JANUARY 2014



*Carol's Comments*

2013 was a good year for WASH, with the repeater move, and all the other projects we accomplished.

As I go into my third year as President of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**, I hope to see bigger and better things for our group this year. My New Year resolution is to do my best for our Hamfest on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. I can't believe this is our 19<sup>th</sup> year! And with the help of all our members I am sure it will turn out great.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday at our Holiday Gathering. There will be a short meeting before Dinner. I would also like to thank Jan Bell for putting all this together.

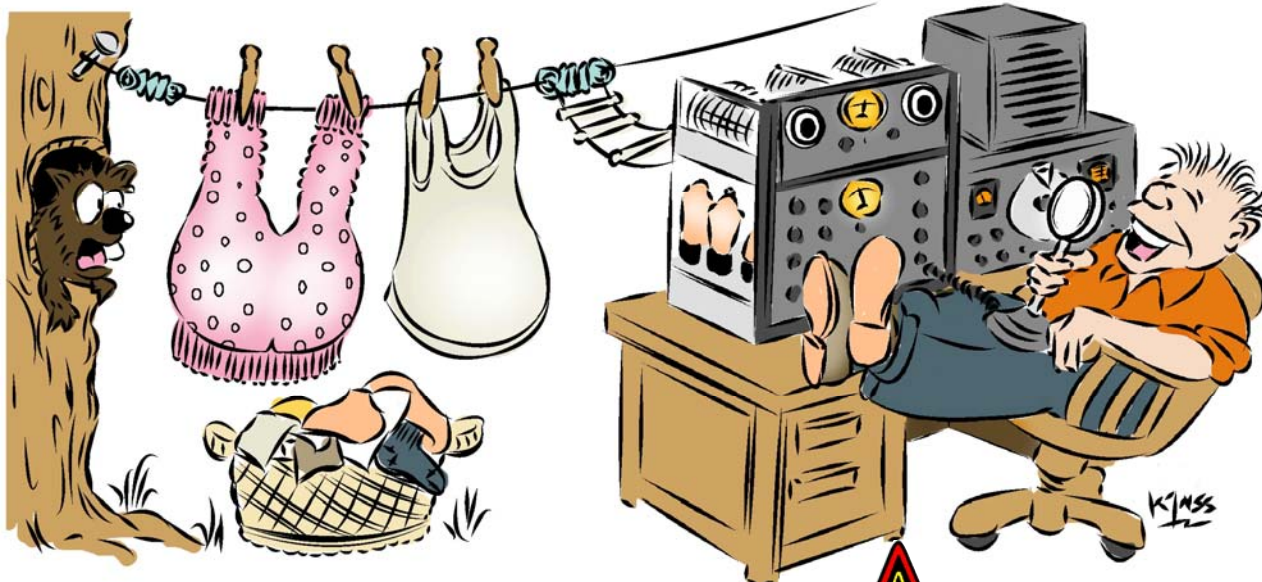
As you know, our 2 Meter Simplex Contest is the following day, Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7 PM to 11 PM. I hope to make many contacts as possible. All the rules are in the news letter and the web site, [n3sh.org](http://n3sh.org).

I certainly hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays. Stay warm and safe. See you on Friday!

73, Carol Dank KB3GMN  
President, Wireless Association of South Hills  
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH







# WASH RAG™



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 01

JANUARY 2014

## Next Monthly Meeting: February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 2014**, at the **Crossroads Ministries Church**, 88 Walter Long Road off Route 88, Finleyville PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

The 2014 2 Meter Simplex Contest, **WASHfest 2014** and other plans will be amongst the topics. See you there!

## WASH Christmas / Holiday Party

**Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM at Tambellini's, Railroad Street, Bridgeville (2 blocks from Route 50, less than 5 minutes from the I-79 interchange)**

## WASH 2014 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Carol Danko KB3GMN
VP / Secretary	Ben Williams KB3ERQ
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

### AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Sean Sleeman N3NWR
Asst. Webmaster	Ben Williams KB3ERQ
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Sean Sleeman N3NWR
WASHfest 2014 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Ron Notarius W3WN
Field Day 2014 Coordinators	Larry Comden K3VX
	Rick Bell KB3IAC

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / 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 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.

## WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

NASA reports that the Sun has "flipped upside down," completing the reversal of it's North & South magnetic poles.

This indicates that we've reached the mid-point of Cycle 24.

The magnetic cycles will now start moving back in the opposite directions, which will end in the poles switching once again.

More info at <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/video-sun-has-flipped-upside-down-as-new-magnetic-cycle-begins-9029378.htm>



WASH December 2013 Meeting photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2013, 2014 Ron Notarius W3WN

Thanks again to Jim Sanford WB4GCS for arranging to have the December meeting at the Nottingham Township Municipal Building!



On the last Saturday of the year, **the WASH Breakfast Gang** met as usual at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at 19 in Canonsburg. Ye Editor was absent (well, he was enjoying Mickey Mouse pancakes with his grandchildren in Arlington VA, followed by an exchange of gifts Santa delivered to the wrong house. Grandson got Star Wars flyers... Ye Editor got a 2014 ARRL Handbook!), fortunately, Jim WB4GCS took some notes for him. This month's intrepid few included WB4GCS, KC4WTT, N3FB, KB3GMU, KB3DCO, N3IDH, K3SGT & Barb, and another ham whose call he didn't catch (sorry about that). Topics covered woodworking (pocket-hole joints & jigs), 500 & 1500 Watt 2 Meter amplifiers, old cars, industrial electrical distribution & relaying, Christmas holidays, & New Year's plans.

We meet once more, for the first time in 2014, in just a few weeknds. Join us on January 25<sup>th</sup> at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at 19, Canonsburg. Our "usual" tables will be reserved, but please let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time, so that he can make sure Suzy saves us enough seats! We'll try to squeeze everyone in, but you never know! See you there!

**Congratulations** are in order to Greg Babin NB3C (ex KQ3DX), who is **resuming the editorship of Kilo Watt Harmonics**, the newsletter of the Steel City ARC! Greg has been a frequent contributor to the WASHRag in his own right over the years, but most people know him for **organizing the annual DAYTON HAMVENTION trips**. (Those who are on his list should be hearing from him about the details for 2014 shortly).

Our **annual 2 Meter Simplex Contest** is upon us. Rules are in this issue. The updated contest pack (rules, entry sheet, log sheets) will be on the club website. Looking forward to another fun year! Don't forget, any entry gets a prize ticket to **WASHFest 2014** (include an SASE to have it mailed to you, otherwise, it will be waiting for you at the club table). And get some pictures of you operating (especially you guys in the mobiles) for use in next month's newsletter!

And of course, **WASHFest 2014** will be here before you know it. Those of us who are amongst "the regulars" pretty much know what needs to be done... but if you're not one of us, let Carol or Bill know. There are a number of tasks that we need some help with beforehand; the day of the event, there are a few things that we need some help with (ticket sales, helping the vendors, etc.). If everyone pitches in a little, no one has to work a lot, and everyone will have a good time! Remember that this is our club's "premier" event, the one that other clubs look to, and a lot of hams look forward to. Let's make it the best possible 'fest that we can!

Good news is that table sales have been picking up, and things are really shaping up for another great year. Would you believe it... **our 19<sup>th</sup> Hamfest?** Seems just like yesterday that we were sweating over whether or not ANYONE would show up, or if we could pull the event off... and look at it now. Anyway, the February meeting will cover any last minute details of **WASHFest**, more on that next month.

Hey! Don't forget that the **WASH Digital Net** has resumed, and now takes place just about every **Wednesday night, 9:30 PM on the N3SH/R 146.955 MHz repeater!** The group is currently using FLDIGI software, latest versions can be found at <http://w1hkj.com/download.html>. Join in on the fun!

### WASHNet 2014 NCS Schedule

01/05/2014 Sean N3NWR	01/26/2014 Glen KE7FD
01/12/2014 Carol KB3GMN	02/02/2014 Larry K3VX
01/19/2014 Fred KB3DCO	02/09/2014 Harold K3HCR
	02/16/2014 Bob AB3ED

**Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2014 Today! Membership Application on Page 13!**



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

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

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:08 hours. There were 13 members and guests in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all, followed by introductions.

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

A motion was made by Bill W3WH to waive reading of the November minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Rick KB3IAC and carried unanimously.

### Committee reports:

**Treasurer (N3RDV):** A balance on the bank account was read & accepted. Reminder that 2014 Club Dues are due in January, please fill out an application for tracking purposes.

**Secretary (KE7FD):** No report. W3WN filling in due to a school conflict

**VE Team (W3WN):** Frank N3FB has offered possible use of the WPXI conference room(s) for a future VE session; Ron has emailing back, trying to establish a date. Once date(s) are set, exams will be scheduled. We will do limited number of exams again at **WASHFest**, time & space permitting.

**Repeaters (N3FB):** Repeating. Jim WB4GCS talked about the repeater project at the N3FB/R site. He also reported that some unidentified stations using calls "Mobile 1" and "Mobile 2" have been appearing from time to time on 442.55, asked that people listen for the interlopers.

**N3SH.ORG (N3NWR):** If anyone has anything for the web site, please email the material to Sean, and he will get it posted.

**Contests(K3VX):** Club's 2 meter simplex contest is coming up.

**2013 Christmas/Holiday Party(KB3IVX):** Party will be Friday, January 10th at Tambellini's in Bridgeville. Jan needs RSVP's.

**WASHFest 2014 (KB3GMN, W3WH):** Coming along great. 15 tables sold & paid for, 24 reserved. Stu from ITEC may need some help moving merchandise in & out. Kathy Sauder is coming.

**Public Service (N3RDV):** No report.

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

**Newsletter (W3WN):** Out. Content needed as always!

**President's Report (KB3GMN):** No January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting; there will be a brief meeting prior to the holiday party the next evening

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Good of the order:**

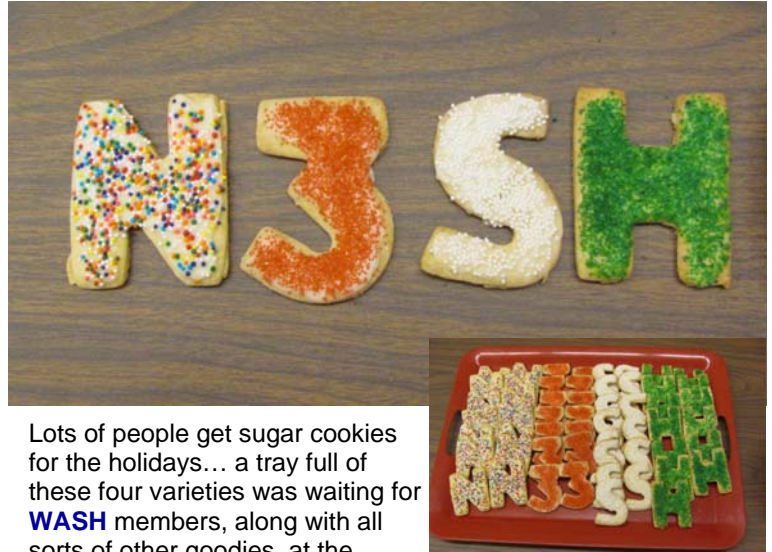
- Rick KB3IAC: Told us about the new St. Clair Hospital ARC that's been formed, with the call N3SCH. Assistance from club members for classes and other activities may be requested. Reciprocal membership between the two clubs is a possibility.
- Bill W3WH: The By-laws committee hasn't met since last month, will meet again soon.
- Jim WB4GCS: Received a call from Peg Smith, she appreciates all of the club's efforts to help settle N3HKQ's estate, and she's doing "OK"
- Ron W3WN: Deadline is approaching on the FCC NPRM, on the ARRL proposal to eliminate the "symbol rate" limits. Please read the petition and file your comments prior to the deadline.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Jim WB4GCS and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:35 hours.

**WASH Christmas / Holiday Party**  
**Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**  
**at Tambellini's, Railroad Street,**  
**Bridgeville**  
**(2 blocks from Route 50, less than 5 minutes from**  
**the I-79 interchange)**

## WASH Spotlight: Cookies!



Lots of people get sugar cookies for the holidays... a tray full of these four varieties was waiting for **WASH** members, along with all sorts of other goodies, at the December meeting! (Thanks Jan!)

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2013, 2014 Ron Notarius W3WN

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](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 **Suzy B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. 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

2014	KAT3WI	N3OVO	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent Keys
KØLIN	KB3GMP	N3RDV	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW	
K3VX	KB3GUZ	N3TIR	W4ZE	WASH SC	
KB3DCO	KB3IAC	N3YJJ	WASH GA	N3RNX	
KB3ERQ	KB3IVX	N7TDX	K3OL	WASH TN	
KB3GMN	KB3JHR	N9SOJ	KB3JX	KE3XB	
KB3GMU	KB3MHM	NY9H	WASH ID	N3YPB	
KB3YCX	KB3TOA	W3LE	N3ZNI	WASH TX	
KB3YKL	KB3ZCX	W3RWS	WASH NE	K3LGM	
KB3BQI	KC3ANX	W3WN	NØPEU	Jane Wagner	
N3FB	KC4WTT	W4CKR	WASH OR	WASH VI	
N3RHT	KE7FD	WA3BOJ	NØVLR	NP2JF	
N3SBF	KJ3D	WB4GCS	NØWPV		
W3VFA	N2QIV	Vincent	KB3NVL		
W3WH	N3AWF	Polis	KB3NVM		
2013	N3BPB	Darryn Sleeman			
AB3ED	N3DFK	Houston Westfall			
AB3KA	N3IDH				
	N3NWR				

# 2014 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

*Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change*

January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Kid's Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Christmas/Holiday Party	Tambellini's Restaurant, Bridgeville
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> 2 Meter Simplex Contest	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave PSK31	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
January 19 <sup>th</sup> — 21 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL January VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
February 11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL School Roundup	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
February 15 <sup>th</sup> — 16 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Fest 2013	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
March 1 <sup>st</sup> —2 <sup>nd</sup>	ARRL DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave SSB	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
March 29 <sup>th</sup> — 30 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WPX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cqwp.com">http://www.cqwp.com</a>
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
May 16 <sup>th</sup> —18 <sup>th</sup>	Dayton Hamvention	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org">http://www.hamvention.org</a>
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>

Report from [CTARL](http://www.ctarl.org) (Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League of Taiwan)

The China Fujian Province Amateur Radio club launched a hot air balloon to Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands on New Year's. They used APRS(Automatic Packet Reporting System) to support and monitoring the entire status during on flight.

Unfortunately the hot air balloon flight lost altitude from 10400 feet ,falling down to 2700 feet and then the radio signal disappeared due to wind wrong or fuel shortage, as the balloon crashed in Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands waters.

The Taiwan Coast Guard contacted the Japan Coast Guard for support during rescue & recovery efforts.

— Randson Huang BV2DQ /WJ2I





## From 5 To 500 & Everywhere In Between

Bill Hill W3WH

This probably seems like a strange title for an article, but what it means is from five Watts QRP to 500 Watts QRO, with other popular stops in between such as 100 Watts. I've been a ham a long time and have almost always used 100 Watts as my power level. A few years ago I did get interested in QRP and just this past year I got my first linear amplifier so now I have the ability to run as much as 500 Watts.

I never felt that I needed more than hundred Watts since I had little trouble attaining DXCC and Worked All States etc. That was before I got interested in 160 m. On 160 having a little more oomph is definitely desirable. On the other hand you can do an awful lot with five Watts. A few years ago somebody either CQ or QST sponsored a contest that we and all year long and I answered as a QRP entry and finish the year with 123 DXCC entities in the log all at five Watts. Last month during the ARRL 10 Meter contest, I easily worked DX stations with five Watts including one in New Zealand.

I haven't had a lot of success yet on 160 with the exception I worked Australia and New Zealand couple times earlier this fall but I'm hoping for some fun during the winter season on top band. Where the amplifier has demonstrated its advantage is when trying to work DXpeditions such as the Wake Island and Lakwadsheep (VU7AG). Not that 500 Watts is necessary it just makes it easier..

For example there is a special event station on now celebrating the memory of Nelson Mandela it probably took me 15 or 20 minutes to work them because I was only running five Watts. If I'd been using 500 Watts it probably would've taken one or two minutes but the point is that you can have a lot of fun with HF running anywhere from 5 to 500 or maybe 1500 Watts.

Get on the air and see what happens. You'll be pleasantly surprised.



## Greetings from the Left Coast

Paul Lusardi NØVLR/7

Hello to all my friends at WASH! Just wanted to provide an update to the NØVLR household in Oregon.

Back in May, 2012 I started a job here in Corvallis, OR (home to Oregon State University). As some of you may recall that my PA commute was long and the "955" repeater got a lot of my attention (how could you forget?). Well things here are quite a bit different and my whole commute is all of about 5 minutes, as I live less than 2 miles from work.

I have gotten involved in the local repeater club, Peak Radio Association - check the website for the large coverage map and the 12 voting repeaters that make up the system (<http://w7pra.org/>), covering the WA/OR border to the OR/CA border from the coast to about 50 miles inland or so. My other radio club is ARES-focused ([www.BCARES.org](http://www.BCARES.org)), and serves the local Sheriff for EMCOMM and support Search & Rescue(SAR) operations. Which led me to get certified as a SAR responder (<http://www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff/ems/sar/academy.php>). A word of advice, if you come out here: Don't get lost, I may be the one to come find you, and with Echo-Link, your radio friends might hear about it!

There are a couple of hamfests in the area - midway between WASH and WACOM-sized - with vendors, demonstrations, and presentations on lessons learned. The big one hamfest out here is SEAPAC <http://www.seapac.org/> and it is held at the same time that I attend an annual conference in FL - so it will be a while before I can get to this one.

In other radio news....I completed the HVOB II (that's Highly Versatile Orange Box II, the NH edition) for my sister Diane KB1KRI, and her husband Brian KB1KRJ, and was hand-delivered in October at their wedding. And before you ask: No, we did NOT run a special event station there - however, there were a few hams on hand!

Other activities this year involved participating in my first simulated emergency test (SET) in November, running a 2M simplex contest, writing an article for QST (yet to be published though), going out on some real and mock SAR missions, buying a little 16' lake boat for the family to enjoy.

I continue to work at NuScale Power, helping design the next small modular reactor (SMR), now with additional help from the US Department of Energy funding.

Speaking of work, my work is on the HP campus here in town and they have an EMCOMM trailer that was semi-mothballed - I keep trying to resurrect that project - but to date, no luck. It needs a tower winch repair to be fully functional.

The family is doing fine with their new schools, jobs, and friends. The weather is typically milder

- although we just got an unusual snow storm this year and closed the schools for 5 days.

Hope all is well with my friends in SWPA. I continue to receive the WASHRag, as well as hearing about the "worked all covered dish" events, at Breezeshooter's, picnics, and alike.

*Photos courtesy of Paul Lusardi NØVLR and Annette Lusardi NØWPV, © Copyright 2013, 2014 Paul and Annette Lusardi*



Paul NØVLR operating W7PRA Field Day 2013 with both HVOB's



Annette NØWPV's First Fish



"Rafting with my girls on the Willamette River (2 miles from my house"



## My Mobile Antenna

Bill Hill W3WH

This is one of those "I hate to admit this but" stories.

Quite a few years ago, I had a Subaru. I drilled a hole in the roof and installed a dual band antenna with an NMO base on it. At the time our repeater was located in downtown Mount Lebanon, and the antenna worked kind of okay. It was never spectacular, but I attributed that to the fact that this antenna was only 12 inches high and is obviously not even close to a 5/8 wave on 2 meters, which is generally accepted to be the best solution for most applications. Anyway, it worked okay. After the Subaru was gone, that antenna went into storage never to see the light of day again until about a month ago.

Since I got a new Honda couple of years ago, I've been using a through the glass antenna that I formally had installed on my Mazda Miata. Once again, it was a little less than okay but I didn't want to drill holes in this new car.

I really expected that after our repeater was moved back to Mount Lebanon at St. Clair Hospital that I would get much improved performance, but that didn't happen. At the WACOM Hamfest I bought a NMO

lip-mount for the rear hatchback of my SUV, and installed my trusty old 12 inch high NMO antenna, pressed the push to talk button in my driveway — and nothing happened. I was not making the repeater. Nuts!

I started to do little research, since I decided I probably would should buy another antenna. In the midst of all this research, I read some reviews of the current antenna that I own. One of the reviews said that the antenna didn't work very well until I adjusted it to bring the SWR down. Then it worked well. This was a revelation to me, since it never occurred to me that you could adjust these mobile antennas for a better match. Well I looked at the antenna, and lo and behold, you can adjust the length of this antenna slightly (about a half an inch). I never knew the adjustment existed!

The other day I got out my MFJ analyzer, and sure enough, the SWR was off the scale! After some trial and error, I seem to have found the sweet spot and now having SWR on two meters of about 1.3 : 1, I can make the repeater consistently during my travels around Washington County. Voila!

The point of all this is that sometimes there are obvious things right in front of your nose that you completely miss, and in my case I missed it for years. The other point, of course, is that if you're getting less than acceptable results from your 2 m mobile antenna, try adjusting it with an analyzer to achieve a better match than you have now.

Yes it was kind of hard to admit that it never occurred to me to try adjusting the antenna, but I'm glad it finally did. YMMV!

Tokyo Hy-Power, a manufacturer of Amateur Radio amplifiers, antenna tuners, and other equipment, is in bankruptcy, and its plant, in Saitama Prefecture near Tokyo, has been shuttered. Telephones at the company no longer are being answered, and its Japanese website has been taken down, although the company's US website remains working. Company CEO/President Nobuki Wakabayashi, JA1DJW, founded Tokyo Hy-Power Labs in 1975. He blamed "the recent depression in the industrial RF power products area [which] has led to the very difficult financial position."

Tokyo Hy-Power's early products were HF antenna couplers, although within a couple of years it began manufacturing amplifiers for the Amateur Radio market, including solid-state mobile amplifiers. Among its early products was the HL-4000 linear amplifier, which the company claimed was "the first real HF band high-power linear of its kind in Japan." It has been manufacturing RF products for the industrial market since 1984.

The company also once marketed the HT-750, a portable, low-power SSB/CW transceiver for 40, 15, and 6 meters in a hand-held transceiver form factor. At Dayton Hamvention® 2013, the company displayed a prototype of the XT-751, an advanced model it hoped to develop, covering 40 through 6 meters and with an internal antenna tuner. Among its latest products were solid-state HF amplifiers, as well as amplifiers for 6 and 2 meters.

— ARRL Web News



InnovAntennas has acquired the legendary Force 12 antenna company and product line and has moved the Force 12 factory from Bridgeport, Texas, to Grand Junction, Colorado, into a facility shared with InnovAntennas America. The Grand Junction facility is up and running, manufacturing and shipping antennas. InnovAntennas says it plans to produce updated versions of classic Force 12 antennas as well as all-new models.

InnovAntennas Founder Justin Johnson GØKSC has been working with Force 12 on model improvements over the last few years and has now set about an entire product overhaul which will include the already completed C and XR series Multi-monoband Yagis. All existing product lines are safe in terms of the supply of parts and repairs.

For more information contact [info@force12inc.com](mailto:info@force12inc.com)

— Justin Johnson GØKSC



CQ Communications Inc has announced plans to realign its publications lineup and to launch a new online supplement to its flagship magazine, **CQ Amateur Radio**. "The hobby radio market is changing," said CQ Communications President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, "and we are changing what we do and how we do it in order to continue providing leadership to all segments of the radio hobby."

Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, content from the magazine's three sister publications — **Popular Communications**, **CQ VHF** and **WorldRadio Online** — will be incorporated into CQ's digital edition as a supplement to be called **CQ Plus**. The print editions of **Popular Communications** and **CQ VHF** will be phased out, and **WorldRadio Online** will no longer exist as a separate online publication. Current **Popular Communications**, **CQ VHF** and **WorldRadio Online** subscribers will be converted to CQ subscribers and receive **CQ Plus** at no additional charge. Details will be posted on each magazine's website.

CQ Communications says the change will offer hobby radio enthusiasts a single source for articles from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as Amateur Radio.



The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world. W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only **W1AW portable operations**. This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory. This is an on-the-air event like no other.

Complete rules available at <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>





## Wireless Association of South Hills Holiday Party

Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Tambellini's Restaurant, 413 Railroad Street, Bridgeville PA 15017

### *Dinner Buffet*

Chicken Picatta	Boston Scrod
Scalloped Potatoes	Ziti with Meat Sauce
Salad	Rolls & Butter
Cash Bar	Dessert

**\$20 per person**

RSVP by Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 to Jan Bell @ DB52-llc.com (724) 884-0394

Payment to Jan Bell    Checks Payable To: Wireless Association of South Hills

## *The Two Meter Contest Adventures of Carl & Quinn*

Lynn Richards AAA2ZZ

**N**ow it had been quite a holiday in December with both of the boys making out real good in the ham shack area, which as they reflected on things was a real bonus since the \$250 they forked out between them for a crank-up tower to some character at **WASHFest** back in 2010 never materialized and it had taken their wives this long to forgive them. Santa had left a Kenwood TH-D72A HT under the tree for Quinn and Carl got that dream VHF antenna system he'd been drooling over for quite some time: two Cushcraft A-17B-2 Boomer Yagis. Two because Carl had plans to mount these atop a tower driven by a Big-Boy PST61D rotor that was attached to a 30 foot Rohn tower he'd picked up at an estate sale.

Quinn could hardly contain his enthusiasm knocking on Carl's back door but mostly because the Arctic Vortex was pouring right through his three layers of camo jackets he usually wore outside, "Carl!" (rap, rap, rap), "Carl!" (rap, rap, rap), "Carl!" (rap, rap, rap). Cracking the door to keep the cold out, and blocking the window so his wife could duck out of the kitchen without Quinn seeing her in her nighty and curled hair, "What's up" he asked as if it was a warm summer day. "Lemme in... It's freezing out here!"

Opening the door just wide enough for Quinn to squeeze through, Carl retorted that the Lemme was a tributary of the Orba River, which flows through the Province of Alessandria in northern Italy. The Lemme Inn was a modest sized BnB situated on the east side of the river overlooking some of its more scenic views. This so befuddled Quinn that he said to Carl in his typical steel trap mind, rusted-shut response of, "What?"

The Lemme Inn is a BnB on the east side of the Orba River. I stayed there once. You do know what a BnB is don't you?" Carl asked as Quinn thawed out by the gas stove.

"Sure I do. It's... Bawl n bacon, where they bawl the water before they put in the eggs in for the bacon grease." To which Carl just rolled his eyes and shut the door real tight.

"What drove you to come out into this cold Quinn?"

"Well, the Two Meter Contest is coming up this weekend and I thought we could join forces to really rack up the points. That way we could win BIG this year!"

"Now Quinn, you realize the Two Meter Contest isn't a real contest, it's more of an operating event. If you operate you win. You only loose if you don't operate. You don't get any more tickets whether you get one point or a thousand. It's just a fun time for those who participate."

"Oh, right. I knew that. But don't you think we could put our new stuff together and really have some fun?"

"How do you mean Quinn? We both have 2 meter mobiles we could just drive around with from one place to another. Is that what you thinking?"

**Continued on  
Page 10**



# Announcing the Fourteenth Annual WASH 2Meter Contest!

This January will mark the Fourteenth 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 thirteen years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

Please review this year's rules carefully. After evaluating feedback from participants the last two years, we made some changes and additions last year that we hope will really generate some interest! 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 11<sup>th</sup>!

**Date & Times:** Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 7 to 11 PM EST.  
(That's January 12<sup>th</sup> 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 **146.505 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.450 to 147.580 MHz**. 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 & AM**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan).
- **Digital (including RTTY)**: 144.51 to 144.55 MHz. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan) Multiple digital modes may be used, and participants are free to use any generally accepted Digital mode, but only ONE Digital QSO with a given station regardless of mode

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

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

→ *Listen for Digital QSO's around 144.51 MHz 45 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 100 watts output.

**Exchange** : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

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 W8XK, please copy Number 3, 15347."

**Example 2:** "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801"

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

**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 below 146.505 MHz.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, nets, & QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty.

**Scoring:** Each Contact: **Phone** (FM, SSB, AM): 1 point  
**CW**: 2 points  
**Digital** (any mode): 2 points

**Multipliers:** Locations (Number of different ZIP Codes)

**Power:** Stations running 10 watts output or less: 3

Stations running over 10 up to 30 watts output: 2

Stations running over 30 watts output: 1

**Final Score:** Total Points x Locations x Power

**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](http://www.n3sh.org), no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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 Ron Notarius W3WN  
3395 Rosewood Drive  
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

**Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2014** on February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Logs submitted with an SASE will have their ticket mailed to them, otherwise, the tickets will be available at the **WASH** Club table

## 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.

After discussions with Frank Bobro N3FB, Repeater Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC), we have determined that the following simplex frequencies are recommended for use. Use of those that are "dual use" are not expected to cause issues for any known repeaters.

Remember that good amateur practice indicates that should a contest participant be notified that they are inadvertently causing interference to a coordinated repeater that is using a recognized simplex channel, they should immediately cease use of that frequency in favor of, and out of respect for, the existing repeater.

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

146.505 MHz	146.580 MHz	147.510 MHz
146.520 MHz (*)	147.450 MHz	147.525 MHz
146.535 MHz	147.465 MHz	147.540 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.480 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.495 MHz	147.570 MHz

Simplex channels below 146.505 MHz are not to be used, as many of these are in use in WPA as repeater input frequencies.

(\*) The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 MHz, may be used. However, many stations use 52 for casual conversation or as a calling frequency. If the frequency is in use or becomes used by non-participants, please permit them to use the frequency unimpeded.

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.

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



**New Product for 2014:**

**The Vibrocube CW paddles from Vibroplex.**

**More information at**

<http://vibroplex.com/vibrocube.html>

## OHØ Active on 160 & 80

Jarmo J. Jaakola, OH2BN [jarmo.jaakola@luukku.com](mailto:jarmo.jaakola@luukku.com)

Following the success of recent low-band operations by Z81X and OF9X, closely on the heels of Santa Claus and capitalizing on the current season of almost total darkness in Northern Europe, a sub-group of those two teams will be heading to Aland Islands to activate **OGØA** on low bands and WARC bands.

The OHØX contest site will be used as the base camp with 160 M slopers for the US and Japan and a 2-L 80 M beam atop a 42-meter (140 ft) rotating tower. Main activity will be on CW, but SSB/RTTY will also be used occasionally.

Operators: Mari OH2FPK (YL); Rami OH2BCI; Martti OH2BH; Pertti OH2PM and Pekka OH2TA. QSL OGØA via OH2BH

This operation is dedicated to the Youth On The Air (YOTA) summer camp due to be organized in Finland from July 15 through July 22, 2014 with two young YLs - Mari, OH2FPK and Kati, OH2FKX - in charge. They will be hosting fifteen (15) young European teams from the same number of countries acquainting themselves with the many faces of Amateur Radio: presentations, competitions, visits to radio stations, workshops, ARDF etc. at the height of the Finnish summer season. The activity is sanctioned by IARU Region 1 and supported by the European Union.

See <http://www.ham-yota.eu/> and <http://www.qrz.com/db/OH2FPK>

All OQRS QSL requests for OF9X and OGØA with donations will be directed to cover the costs of this healthy youth activity in Finland. You can OQRS OF9X and OGØA respectively via their QRZ.com page.

## Carl & Quinn

*Continued from Page 8*

"No man, what I'm thinking is that we can use my new HT that has APRS in it so it can track our locations where we stop at to operate. I can borrow my father-in-laws RV, and we can put your two new Boomers stacked on the roof. We just point the RV in the general direction of most of the other stations. This way we get a HUGE signal out there without using an amplifier!"

"Hmmm, you might have something there Quinn. Each antenna has 18 db of gain, so that's a multiplier of 63 times the power of the radio. So let's see, if we were running 50 watts FM times 63 that's... carry the one... That's like 315 watts, No wait, that's 3,150 watts equivalent! We could talk to people in Canada! The polarization gets all twisted up after it bounces anyway so we could use them for both FM and SSB! We'd be like, GOLDEN!"

So the boys set to making their plans, but had to wait until Saturday morning for things to warm up to the 30's to mount the two Yagis on the RV.

It was a busy day, but once they were done the two Yagis looked totally AWSOME on the RV.

*To be continued...*

The following items are for sale from the estate of WA3BJS:

TR44 Rotor with Control Box: \$125

ICOM IC-2100 2 Meter Mobile: \$100

Alinco DR-130 2 Meter Mobile: \$100

Heathkit HW-100, no mike or speaker, with manual: \$175

Heathkit Phone Patch: \$15

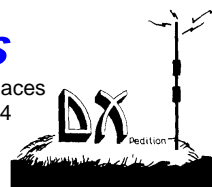
Radio Shack Digital Soldering Station: \$30

Comet CF-706 Duplexer: \$50

For more information, contact Chuck

W3YNI [w3ynil@gmail.com](mailto:w3ynil@gmail.com)

## DX News Briefs



**FT5ZM Amsterdam Island**, one of the most remote places on the planet, should be going on the air on or about 24 January. The team will be on the island for about 18 days. They plan to be QRV on 160 – 10 meters, CW SSB & RTTY. They plan to have two operating positions on the north end of the island. The team indicates that additional fund raising to cover costs (estimated at \$450,000 – not including operator travel costs) of the trip; 72% is estimated to charter the M/V Braveheart. Online logs will be available on ClubLog once the team goes on the air. QSL via OQRS or N2OO. More info at <http://www.amsterdamdx.org/> - KØIR

Several Russian amateurs are now signing portable HI8/. They are QRV on HF, CW SSB & Digital modes. Look for **HI8/RU4LG**, **HI8/RA4LB**, **HI8/UA4LGS** & **HI8/UA4LL**. QSL via the op's home call – DX World

N4BFR & N4EWTwill be QRV as **ZF2JS** & **ZF2KO** 18 – 23 January, Holiday Style, CW SSB & Digital. QSL via home calls – DX World

The **TY1TT** operation by ON6DX should be QRV 26 January – 5 February, 40 – 10, CS SSB & RTTY. More information at <http://www.dxpediton.be/Benin.html> QSL via ON6DX -- ON6DX

**A52JR** will be a family operation by PP5JR and PU5FJR, joined with JH1AJT, 80 – 10, SSB only. QSL via PP5VB – DX World

AF1G is stationed on Andros Island, Bahamas, NA-001, as **AF1G/C6A** through November 2013. QSL via LotW or direct – DX World

Look for **TO4YL** by F4BMR from Martinique (**FM**) 8 – 22 Feb, 160 – 10 M. QSL via F5GN – F4BMR

JE2EHP will be QRV as **FK/K1HP** 18 -26 Feb, HF, CW SSB & RTTY. QSL via JE2EHP – DX World

K7CO & K7CXN will be QRV as **VK9X/K7CO** from Christmas Island, 1 – 11 March. QRV 80 – 10, CW SSB & PSK31. They are seeking at least one more operator to join them. More information at <http://www.nielsen.net/vk9x/>. QSL via K7CO; they will not accept cards via the buro. – K7CO

The **VK9MT Mellish Reef** team is looking for one more additional operator, experienced in SSB & RTTY, with the time and financial means to join them. This person must be in Mackay, Australia by 23 March, and be ready to leave on or after 16 April. The trip is planned for 28 March through 9 April. They plan 6 stations running 24/7 on CW, SSB & RTTY. Log search will be available via ClubLog. QSL via OQRS or via MØURX as per the web site. More information at <http://www.vk9mt.com> – VK9MT / HA5AO

N7XR plans two DXpeditions in 2014. Dates to be announced. He will be QRV as **VQ9XR** from Chagos Archipelago, joined by N6MZ, two operations lasting 3 weeks each; and **NH9/N7XR** from Wake Island, one operation for 3 weeks. During 1 week of the Wake trip, he will be QRV as **WH9/W1AW**. More information at <http://www.wake-diego2014.org/> QSL all (except WH9/W1AW) via NN1N – N7XR

## QSL Routes

3B9EME via I3LDP -- JA1HGY	T6T via RW6HS -- LU2DKN
3D2GC via LZ1GC -- PAØWRS	TN2MS via PA3AWW -- TN2MS
5B4AJC via UA3DX -- AA5AM	TO2TT via I2YSB -- JA1HGY
5H3EE via DL3ME -- N8IK	TX5D via N7QT -- JA1HGY
5JØR via EA5RM -- W4DN	TX5RV via MØURX -- JA1HGY
9L1JT via N4WDT -- JA1HGY	V31MA via MØOXO -- JA1HGY
EG3INT/7 via EA5KA -- W3AWU	V31ZM via MØOXO -- JA1HGY
FO/KHØPR via JJ8DEN -- W3AWU	VP2V/N3DXX via NR6M -- NR6M
FS/NØTG via AA4VK -- JA1HGY	YJØTE via JA2ATE -- GM4FDM
GN4FOC via G3SWH -- G3SWH	ZC4LI via G3SWH -- G3SWH
GT4FOC via G3SWH -- G3SWH	ZM9ØDX via MØOXO -- JA1HGY
JX9JKA via LA9JKA -- W4TV	

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX World.Net, 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.**

### HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Cellular Telephones	
Mechanical Breakdown & Electrical Damage Coverage	



Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

Murrin, Taylor, Flach, Gallagher & May

110 East Diamond Street, Butler PA 16001

Phone: 724-282-3141 [mlazaroff@murrinlaw.com](mailto:mlazaroff@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](http://stores.shop.ebay.com/Randy-George-Custom-Signs_W0QQ_armrsZ1)

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at [www.dashtoons.com](http://www.dashtoons.com) !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, [www.cafepress.com/shopdash](http://www.cafepress.com/shopdash)



My business, Vibroplex Spiderbeam, seeks independent contractor(s) to build beam antennas.

Basic requirements are good arm/hand strength, mechanical ability, can follow instructions and understand "cut-and-try" to set SWR curves.

Need amateur radio license, space to test antennas, SWR analyzer. U.S. citizen or resident with Social Security # or Fed tax ID #. Can be located anywhere in U.S.A. - work at your location. Spare-time/part-time not involving large sums of \$\$\$.

Interested? Send an email to [vibroplex@vibroplex.com](mailto:vibroplex@vibroplex.com) telling me why you can do the job for us.

— Scott Robbins W4PA

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

## FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 — The ARRL-sponsored medium-frequency experiment, operating as WD2XSH, continues apace in an effort to demonstrate the viability of 472 to 479 kHz as a secondary Amateur Radio allocation.

At the same time, the FCC has been silent regarding the ARRL's November 2012 [Petition for Rulemaking](#) that asked the Commission to make this segment of the spectrum available to radio amateurs in the US. Delegates to the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference [approved](#) a 7 kHz-wide secondary allocation between 472 and 479 kHz for the Amateur Radio Service, with a power limit of 5 W EIRP (or 1 W EIRP, depending on location). The FCC has indicated that it will address the issue within the context of its *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in [ET Docket No. 12-338](#), to formally reflect the *Final Acts of WRC 2007* in its rules.

In his quarterly WD2XSH update, Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab W1FR, reported that 514 contacts — 10 in the last quarter — have been logged among those taking part in the experiment across the US.

"As usual, activity increased as conditions improved during the fall. Much of the recent activity has involved [WSPR-15](#)," Raab reported. "Reception over significant distances (eg, Europe, Alaska) has been reported. Much of the activity is being undertaken by a few new experimental licensees." Raab noted that WD2XSH participant Brian Justin WA1ZMS, transmitted Fessenden [commemorative broadcasts](#) on AM via his own experimental license, WG2XFQ, during the December holidays.

In the US, the 472-479 kHz band is part of the larger 435-495 kHz segment that is allocated on a primary basis to the Maritime Mobile Service (federal and non-federal users), and on a secondary basis for federal government aeronautical radionavigation. The ARRL stated in its *Petition* that it is unaware of any domestic assignments that might conflict with the allocation of 472 to 479 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service, and there is almost no power line carrier (PLC) operation in this band segment. The FCC in 2003 cited the potential for interference to utility-operated PLC systems when it turned down an ARRL petition seeking an LF "sliver band" at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz.

The WD2XSH experiment involves more than three dozen stations and includes all geographic areas of the US, including Alaska and Hawaii. Most of the stations are in the eastern half of the US. Raab has reported no interference issues during the WD2XSH experiment, begun in 2006 and initially using spectrum in the vicinity of 500 kHz.

The experiment is scheduled to continue until the current license expires on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Seventeen US experimental stations not affiliated with the ARRL experiment and a handful of Part 15 stations are active in the vicinity of 500 kHz. A dozen so-called "heritage stations" in the US operate there as well.

As Raab noted in his report, at least a dozen countries already have approved Amateur Radio operation in the 630 meter band — 472 to 479 kHz. They are Germany, Greece, Malta, Monaco, Norway, the Philippines, Czech Republic, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, Finland, Spain, and France.

## Just Hanging Around...



A recent tree-trimming accident in the next door neighbor's yard has left W3WN's modified HF2V vertical "topless". (Not to worry, it's covered under their insurance!)

Replacement aluminum sections should come in from Butternut shortly, and the 160 meter "inverted L" should be back up soon. Meanwhile, as you can see, the top section & the "L" wire are just, ah, hanging around...



# WASHfest 2014

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

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

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

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**

**DXCC Card Checking Available!**

Thanks Art Lund NQ3A

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

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

## MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to Play to WIN!



1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Yaesu FTDX-1200 HF + 6M

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Comet CMX 2300  
HF/VHF SWR/Power Meter

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Clear Speech Speaker



**Additional Hourly Door Prizes! Special Black Box Prize (Separate Drawing)!**

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 Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 [n3sbf@comcast.net](mailto:n3sbf@comcast.net)

E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance four years running!

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 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
**WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**  
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:  
**WASHfest 2014**  
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN  
4246 Seton Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

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 2014



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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]

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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

**N3RDV has requested that 2014 membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- ☐ \$39 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)

Dues subject to change without notice

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# ***2014 Rail Trip to ARRL Headquarters in Newington CT — March 6<sup>th</sup> — 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014***

The trip is being organized by Bob Bastogne WC3O. For up to date information, please contact him at [radiofreebob@gmail.com](mailto:radiofreebob@gmail.com)

Departure will be on the AMTRAK #42 **The Pennsylvanian** from Pittsburgh at 7:30 AM on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The train can also be boarded at Greensburg, it's next stop. On arrival in Philadelphia, we will transfer to the #143 **Northeast Regional** to head North to CT. **It is recommended that you arrive to the AMTRAK station early to avoid any unexpected problems.** Arrival in Meridan, CT will take place Thursday night. Trip guests will stay at the 4 Points By Sheraton hotel in Meridan, CT. The hotel will pick everyone up at the station (it may take more than one trip). Rental cars will take us to ARRL Headquarters in Newington, and we will operate from W1AW, on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Everyone will head out for dinner together Friday night, and return home first thing Saturday morning.

Bob says that "the AMTRAK trains are very roomy, comfortable, quiet and smooth. There is lots of legroom, the seats recline and footrests come up. There are 110 volt outlets at every seat so you can plug in your computer or whatever, free WiFi and enjoy the ride. (Amtrak advises that you bring headphones for any radios.) There will be a dining or snack car on the train. The food is ok and while the price might be a little high, it's not too bad. You CAN bring your own food and drink. The train going up the coast has a little less room, but will still be good. (Bring your scanner and listen to the train traffic!)"

**EACH PERSON MUST MAKE THEIR OWN HOTEL RESERVATION AND BUY THEIR OWN TRAIN TICKET.** A link to the hotel with the special rates for this trip can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ARRLtrip>. AMTRAK tickets can be found at <http://www.amtrak.com/home>; please reserve early, as the price goes up as you get closer to the departure date. (Contact WC3O for specific details on reservations). Bob WC3O will be handling the arrangements for the rental cars for the round trip to ARRL, so he needs to know how many people are coming.

W1AW has three "Studios" each with two stations. It will be a matter of luck if there will be other people visiting and/or operating on that particular day. We will take that as it goes. During the tour of ARRL HQ we will see many historical aspects of amateur radio, see the offices and meet some of the people that you read about in QST. You will see the out-going QSL bureau. You can even take your card(s) along to have it(them) sent out. You can have your QSL cards checked for DXCC and WAS awards while we are there! You will see the lab where ARRL does their reviews, meet the ARRL VEC team and much more. It will be a fun time!

Any questions, please contact Bob WC3O.



## **The WASHRag**

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

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

