



# WASHRAG<sup>TM</sup>

TM



## Wireless Association of South Hills

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 02  
FEBRUARY 2014



*Carol's  
Comments  
Page 5*





## WASHRAG™



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 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**, the Arduino & Raspberry Pi Workshop(s), and other plans will be amongst the topics. See you there!

Cover Photo: Every ham needs a nice little house with a tower and a beam...

Table decorations at the WASH Christmas/Holiday Party, courtesy of Rick KB3IAC & Jan KB3IVX — all of which went home with lucky members attending! More photos on Page 6. Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Ron Notarius W3WN

## 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)**

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

This issue is © Copyright 2014 by the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

Permission is granted to other Amateur Radio publications to reprint articles in this issue, provided the original author and **"The WASHRag™"** are given credit. Comments, articles, and requests for copies of or information about **"The WASHRag™"** should be mailed to the editor:

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

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

**"The WASHRag"**, **"The Mariner"**, **SHARCfest**, **South Hills Hamfest**, **WASHfest**, **WASHfest 2014**, **N3SH Net**, **WA3SH Net** and **WASHNet** are <sup>TM</sup>trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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

### Next WASH VE Test February 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2014**, Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall, 3600 Library Road, Castle Shannon, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Due to space limitations, **pre-registration is required**. Walk-ins will be accommodated only if space and time are available. if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: [w3wn@n3sh.org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org)

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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
 Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
 Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
 Location: WPXI TV 11, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

### So... How About Some Pi?

Yes – A nice warm piece of apple pie and a cup of coffee **would make** anyone forget the nasty cold weather that we have been having. Maybe even a second helping! Alas I am not talking about those delicious fruits and custards so carefully placed in those moist flakey shells of buttery heaven. Nor am I referring to that irrational number that never ends, never repeats, and drives mathematicians crazy also known as “Pi” (3.14159.....). No I am referring to that little microcomputer package otherwise known as the “Raspberry Pi”. My favorite flavor too!

Over the past years a number of small microcontroller/microcomputers have been introduced into the educational circles. Developed to teach computing and programming principles these devices are relatively inexpensive and pack a substantial amount of computing power into a very small footprint. Two of the more prominent and available devices are the [Arduino](#) and the [Raspberry Pi](#).

I know. Another gadget to buy that will sit on the workbench and collect dust. **MAYBE NOT**. These little workhorses can be adapted to a number of useful “Tools” for aspiring new hams as well as the “Old Timers”. Not that any of us are really old or set in our ways. So we put the call out to see if any WASH members would be interested in making some “Pi” and found at least 13 willing takers (or should I

**Continued  
on page 7**

If you're part of the group staying at the University of Dayton dorms for the 2014 Dayton Hamvention, and you haven't heard from Greg NB3C yet... please contact him ASAP.

Greg is now collecting funds so that we can finalize everything with the University; the sooner, the better.

This year's cost is about \$70.

We are staying at South Tower this year.

All space has been spoken for, so if you haven't made a reservation with Greg, sorry...

It's sure been one of THOSE winters so far, hasn't it? We haven't seen cold & snow like this in over 20—25 years (Global Warming? Right). Despite the weather, though, **the WASH Breakfast Gang** met as usual on January 25<sup>th</sup> at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at 19 in Canonsburg. In attendance this month were W3WH, N3IDH, N3FB, KB4GMU, WB4GCS, W3PLP, KB3DCO, W3WN, KB3JHR, N3TIR & N3YJJ. Subjects of the morning covered eye doctors, repeater allocations, cold!, the CQ 160 contest, driving conditions, cold!, TS-990, SuperBowl in New Jersey, cold!, American Idol, home repairs, “do you have this switch for a John Deere?”, cold!, feral cats, Raspberry Pi's & Arduino, cold!, Ten Tec 506 Rebel, hauling trailers... and did we mention it was cold?

We shall meet again on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day before **WASHFest 2014**, for one last relaxing round of coffee and kvetching, before the setup and hamfest fun begins. So, please 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!

We have a lot to cover this month, so pardon the brevity...

Results from the 2 Meter Simplex Contest are on Page 6. Tickets will be in the mail on the 16<sup>th</sup> for those who sent in SASE's, or will be available at the club table at **WASHFest 2014** for those who didn't. Thanks to all who entered! Hope you had fun!

**WASHFest 2014**, our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual (can you believe it?) is just around the corner. It's shaping up to be another huge event. If you haven't already told Carol or Bill what you can help out with, now is the time... if everyone pitches in, no one is overburdened, and everyone has fun. We should know soon if we will have access to the building on Saturday for early setup, keep an ear on the repeaters on Saturday if you don't see anything on the reflectors.

And not to be unpleasant about it, **but a gentle reminder**: If you're not helping out at **WASHFest**, you don't get a “free pass” — you have to pay admission, just like everyone else. And only those who buy admission tickets get a “door prize” ticket (as opposed to “main prize” and “black box” tickets). Also, **only vendors** (and club members working) **will be admitted** prior to 8 AM. We've had a few people talk their way in early the last two years, promising to sit at the lunch tables and drink coffee... next thing you know, they're getting a “head start” on everyone else while the vendors are trying to complete their setup. It's not fair to those who play by the rules, and it's not fair to the vendors... so due to abuse of the privilege, we can't do it anymore. Sorry.

Carol will have more on that at the meeting.

As per discussion at the December meeting, we've **added a mobile check-in** prize to the impressive list of hamfest give-aways. Please let people know about this! Everyone who checks in with N3SH on 146.955 between 6 AM & 10 AM will be eligible (1 per call), winner picked by random drawing just after 10 AM.

Notice something back? Yes, **we will have VE Exams** at **WASHFest 2014** again... and our schedule for 2014 is set. We're reverting back to a quarterly schedule, one week after the regular club meeting night.. Our thanks to Frank N3FB for arranging a very nice location for the exams, and to WPXI Channel 11 as well. We'd hoped to have

**Continued on Page 4**

### WASHNet 2014 NCS Schedule

02/02/2014 Larry K3VX	04/13/2014 Bob AB3ED
02/09/2014 Harold K3HCR	04/20/2014 Rick KB3IAC
02/16/2014 Bob AB3ED	04/27/2014 Sean N3NWR
02/23/2014 Rick KB3IAC	05/04/2014 Carol KB3GMN
03/02/2014 Sean N3NWR	05/11/2014 Fred KB3DCO
03/09/2014 Carol KB3GMN	05/18/2014 Glen KE7FD
03/16/2014 Fred KB3DCO	05/25/2014 Larry K3VX
03/23/2014 Glen KE7FD	06/01/2014 Bob AB3ED
03/30/2014 Larry K3VX	06/08/2014 Harold K3HCR
04/06/2014 Harold K3HCR	06/15/2014 Sean N3NWR

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



## Minutes, January 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

(Brief meeting prior to the start of the Christmas/Holiday Party)

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 18:48 hours. There were 21 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.

It was announced that due to the abbreviated nature of the meeting, only a few brief announcements would be made.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read & accepted.

WASHNet (N3NWR): Anyone who would like to volunteer for NCS, please contact Sean. (As of the meeting night) we need to fill in NCS slots starting about 6 weeks out.

Contests(K3VX): Club's 2 meter simplex contest is this weekend. ARRL January VHF contest is next weekend.

WASHFest 2014 (KB3GMN, W3WH): Coming along great, ahead of expectations. Over 24 tables spoken for. Postcards to advertise the event are enroute from the printer. A sign-up sheet will be passed around so that Carol & Bill will have an idea of who is available when, and what they can help out with.

President's Report (KB3GMN): New Year's Resolution: Make WASHfest 2014 the best one ever! Don't forget that March is our post-hamfest Pizza Night.

Good of the order: Glen KE7FD presented his "Elmer's Choice" awards to Carol KB3GMN & Rick KB3IAC: Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Jim WB4GCS and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:00 hours.

Dinner and related festivities followed.

### WASH Club News Briefs Continued from Page 3

something in the South Hills, but we just couldn't find anything that didn't have hassles attached. Maybe that will change... regardless, if you are an ARRL VE, please let W3WN know if you can be available at **WASHFest** or on any of the selected nights the rest of the year.

Anyway... due to space limitations (we can only handle 3 candidates at a time in the back room), **WASHFest VE Exams are pre-registration only**. IF space is available, we'll handle any walk-ins, but potential candidates should contact W3WN and reserve their slot to be certain.

Moving on... We've recently heard from two long-time members who've left the area.

First, news from **Bob Sanford AA3FI**, who's been exiled in Philadelphia by USAir the last few years. Bob is about 5 years from retirement, and plans to come back to the Pittsburgh area then. Meanwhile, he's on a dipole and listening a lot in his apartment. Bob also tells us that Sam AA3JS, now living in Shadyside, is pursuing a PhD as she's researching a cure for malaria at CMU. Jacqueline N3ZCG is in CT and considering Veterinary school, since she graduated from PSU. Bonnie N3VEH has finished her PhD and is looking for a teaching position. Congrats ladies!

Second, news from **Pete Cole N3RNKX**. Since retiring from the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, Pete's been busy down in South Carolina, as part of the Berkeley County ARES group. We hope to soon coax a short article about this group from Pete in the near future...

Any other "alumni" out there who'd like to let us know what they're up to? We do miss our friends... and the rest of you, too (just kidding)

One of the biggest contests of the year is coming up; 2 weekends, one per mode: **ARRL DX CW** next weekend, and **ARRL DX SSB** the first weekend in March. W3WN is once again opening up his shack for anyone who'd like to have a little fun operating either or both. Interested? Drop him an email, call him on the repeater, or talk to him at the meeting.

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://w1hki.com/download.html>. Join in on the fun!

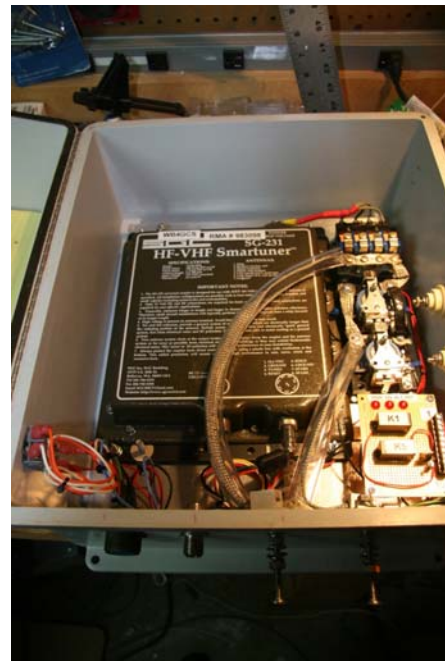
## WASH Spotlight: Teaser

What is this? ...

well, obviously, an SGC Smarttuner that belongs to WB4GCS... but do you know what it's in and why?

Jim promises us an article next month to explain it all, and sent this photo in as a teaser (you're on the hook now!!)

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Jim Sanford WB4GCS



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, 1 mile North of Downtown 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	N3SBF	KB3ZCX	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent
AB3PJ	W3RWS	KC3ANX	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW	Keys
AC4KU	W3VFA	KE7FD	W4ZE	WASH SC	AB3KA
KØLIN	W3WH	KJ3D	WASH GA	N3RNKX	K3EED
K3GW	W3WN	N2QIV	K3OL	WASH TN	K3LIE
K3HCR	WB4GCS	N3AWF	KB3IJX	KE3XB	KA3NMG
K3VX	Darryn Sleeman	N3BPB	WASH ID	N3YPB	KB3ENX
KB3DCO		N3IDH	N3ZNI	WASH TX	KB3FNM
KB3ERQ		N3OVO	WASH NE	K3LGM	KB3FQT
KB3GMN	AB3ED	N3RDV	NØPEU	Jane Wagner	N3FZ
KB3GMP	AB3KA	N3TIR	WASH OR	WASH VI	N3HKQ
KB3GMU	AE3DL	N3YJJ	NØVLR	NP2JF	N3KEH
KB3IAC	K3SGT	N7TDX	NØWPV		N3OBD
KB3IVX	K3WJL	N9SOJ	KB3NVL		N3SKR
KB3YCX	KA3TWI	NY9H	KB3NVM		N3SRC
KB3YKL	KB3GUZ	W3LE			N3ZEL
KC3BQI	KB3JHR	W4CKR			N3XFE
KC4WTT	KB3MHM	WA3BOJ			W3ZLK
KJ3D	KB3TOA	Vincent Polis			WA3JPP
N3DFK		Houston Westfall			

Through February 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2014 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

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

February 13 <sup>th</sup>	WASH 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>	WASHFest 2014	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	WASH VEC Session @ WASHFest 2014	Pre-Registration Required, due to space limitations. Please contact VE Team Liason <a href="#">Ron Notarius W3WN</a> for more information
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>	WASH 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>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Two Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.trarc.net/trarc-hamfest">http://www.trarc.net/trarc-hamfest</a>
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	WASH 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>
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	WASH Picnic @ Breezeshooters	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL WPA EMCOMM Conference	<a href="http://wpaares.org">http://wpaares.org</a>
June 14 <sup>th</sup> —16 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL June VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
June 28 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Field Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>

**WASHFest 2014:** Our 19<sup>th</sup> year, hard to believe we have been doing this for that amount of time. I guess we are doing something right. I could not pull this off with out the help from our members and my other half. Everything is coming along just fine. All we have to do is dot the I's and cross the T's.

Once all is done we can look forward to our pizza social. And then we can start planning our next group function (N3SH Field Day 2014).

Hope to see you all at the meeting.

*Carol's  
Comments*

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





## 2014 2 Meter Simplex Contest Results Ron Notarius W3WN

*"Thanks to WASH for sponsoring the FUN contest each year!" — Jim KA3KSP*

Jim's words sum up what we hear just about every year from everyone who participates in our little event. It was fun!

What else do you need to add to that?

Well, logs turned in were down a little from last year. And we certainly could have used more publicity, which is entirely my fault; I'll do better next time around.

But those are relatively trivial. The important thing is, for 4 hours on a Saturday night, we're reminded of just how well one can do on 2 meter simplex... and we have a load of fun doing so!

The contest committee did feel it necessary this year to disqualify two logs. Out of respect to the two operators, we're using pseudonyms for their real calls... and you can find the story behind the DQs over on Page 8,

For those who sent in SASE's, their **WASHFest** prize tickets should be in the mail by the end of the week. Everyone else will find their tickets waiting for them at the **WASH** club table.

Next year? We're hoping for more of a turn-out, as we do every year. We're also going to start accepting electronic logs (actually, we already have been, just making it official) so that anyone who wishes can simply email us an Excel spreadsheet with their logs.

A few other notes.... First, we've learned that Paul NØVLR/7 and his new club had a very successful turn-out for their new version of the Simplex Contest, and there may be a write-up on it in a major ham magazine shortly!

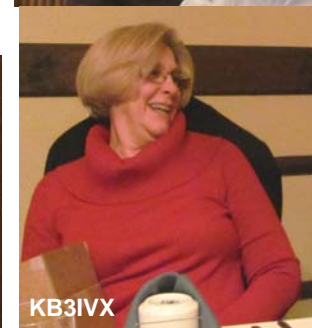
Second, we have had some input from others (outside of the area) asking us to consider moving the contest back a weekend, to coincide with the ARRL January VHF Contest. We don't think that's a good idea... the result would be that our little event would be overwhelmed by the big event. We certainly encourage everyone to operate both, but simultaneously? Nah.

Class	Call	QSOS	MULTS	PWR	SCORE
NON HI	KB3ORR	16	15	1	240
NON HI	WO3X	8	8	1	64
NON HI	K3HX	7	7	1	49
NON HI	KB3VSP	6	6	1	36
NON HI	KD8VMR	1	1	1	1
NON HI	KD8RML	1	1	1	1
NON LO	<b>KA3KSP/M</b>	33	14	3	1386
MEM HI	<b>KE7FD/M</b>	32	19	1	608
MEM HI	K3HCR	25	17	1	425
MEM HI	WB4GCS	17	15	1	255
MEM HI	N3NWR	11	9	1	99
MEM HI	N3BPB	6	6	1	36
MEM HI	KB3ERQ	2	2	1	4
MEM HI	<b>NA3LID</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>DQ</b>
MEM HI	<b>NA3IOU</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>DQ</b>
MEM MID	<b>KB3IAC/M</b>	33	12	2	792
MEM MID	W3WN	20	16	1	320
MEM LO	<b>KB3ERQ/M</b>	16	13	3	624
MEM LO	KB3YCX	2	2	3	12

## 2014 WASH Christmas/Holiday Party!



Photos courtesy of & ©  
Copyright 2014 Ron  
Notarius W3WN



# Nicotine Withdrawal & The Bencher Paddles Incident

Chip Cox W9EBE

Having smoked cigarettes regularly since I was around 14 years old, by the time I quickly approached the ripe old age of 30, I decided it was time to quit. But, what, other than the obvious health reasons, would be my incentive? Why, putting the money I would have spent on cigarettes toward ham radio gear, of course!

Around that time, Yaesu had just come out with the nifty (and VY FB!) little FT-757GX. I made my commitment to part ways with my coffin nails and I decided \*that\* was the rig for me. I had initially dreamed of owning a Kenwood TS-430S, but it was not as CW friendly as was the Yaesu, so the '757 was going to be the brand-spankin' new rig at (then) WB9EBE's shack!

It had been a while since I owned my own gear; my (now ex) wife and I were living on a shoestring budget and I had been unable to afford any decent ham radio equipment. A couple of my sympathetic and generous ham friends had kindly lent me some gear so I could get on the air, and I had managed to keep active, mostly on 'phone, thanks to them. But I had reached the point where it was time for me to upgrade to the latest technology and have some gear of my own. And I seriously wanted to get back to my mode of choice -- CW! So, I acquired a credit card and decided that the money I had previously spent on cigarettes would go instead to making the payments on the expenditure of radio stuff. (I've never claimed to be a financial genius.)

I went to Erickson Communications in Chicago with my new, empty VISA card and purchased the FT-757GX, along with Bencher BY-1 paddles and logbooks. Yes, logbooks, plural. I wanted one logbook for \*each\* HF band, plus one for SWL'ing. The salesman at the store raised his eyebrows at checkout and said, "You're planning on making a lot of contacts, aren't you?" Oh yeah.

It didn't take me long to get home and put the new rig into service. I quickly began joyfully exploring all of the '757's cool features. Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy... it was time for some CW with the shiny, new paddles!

But throughout the following week, no matter how hard I tried, I simply could not get the hang of that Bencher BY-1. I felt sorry for those poor operators who had to listen to my all-too-frequent errors. I wanted a cigarette!

Contact after contact, nothing but frustration with my paddles. I wanted a cigarette!!

I reached my breaking point in mid-CQ one afternoon. I could not, for the life of me, slap out a decent CQ. I wanted a cigarette!!! Bad.

My frustration rose to a heretofore unknown level to a point where I almost roared like a provoked, agitated lion. Instead, I glared at the uncooperative Bencher and, and, with shaking hands (have I mentioned that I wanted a cigarette?) I hastily grabbed the tension spring that attaches to the paddles and yanked it clean off, sending Bencher parts flying up in the air, and back down all over the operating desk. The tinkling sound of little pieces/parts raining down on the desk's surface seemed to overcome the background noise of whatever band I had been QRM'ing.

<GASP!> Oh no! What had I done?

I sat back, took a deep breath, and surveyed the damage I had inflicted on the paddles. I felt like an idiot. One end of the spring in my hand was stretched to the point that it looked like a mangled length of thin-gauge wire. The paddle's finger pieces resembled a dissected butterfly, lying some distance from the base along with other various parts that once adorned it.

Now I'd done it. I had ruined those beautiful paddles. Did I mention that I felt like an idiot?

After many anxious moments of composing myself, I took another deep breath and began to formulate how I could repair the poor dismembered device. Aha! I got it! If I simply cut off the now-straightened portion of the spring, maybe I could put all the parts back together and reconnect the shorter spring so that maybe, just maybe, I could get it to work again! Reassembly ensued while I listened enviously to some beautiful Morse sent by an accomplished operator. I managed to put the paddles back together piece by piece, and attached the shorter spring. "Here goes," I said to myself.

**V V V test V V V de WB9EBE AR** Much to my delight, the "modified" Bencher paddles actually seemed to work MUCH better with more spring tension provided by the shorter spring! Eureka! My once-good ol' CW fist started to make a comeback!

Following that episode of sheer idiocy, my Bencher and I became the best of friends. It forgave me for my brutal assault, and for years was my reliable CW companion, not only in the shack, but even mobile and on camping trips. I still have it, along with another Bencher BY-1 that replaced it when the "modified" one started to rust from having been left in my van beneath a side window that somehow allowed the rain to leak in.

As a matter of fact, I found that the Bencher BY-1 paddles (even un-"modified") were great for mobile operation, and used them for many years.

A few years ago, this Vibroplex operator took the venerable Bencher out of the closet to give it some attention. It had been probably five or six years since I had last used it, and it looked and felt like a dear, old friend. EXCEPT, I could no longer send well — at all — with it. This time, though, instead of almost destroying it out of frustration, I simply gave it a little pat and bid it a fond goodbye, putting it back in the closet, where it resides to this day. I had learned my lesson.

So, my fellow CW operators, the moral of the story is:

- (1) Don't smoke.
- (2) If you do, quit.
- (3) And, do not, I repeat, DO NOT, quit smoking while simultaneously attempting to use a Bencher BY-1 for the first time. If you're in that rattled state of mind and haven't been on CW in a while, you may want to ease into the return with a J-38 or something. Your Bencher -- and your sanity -- will thank you for it.

say bakers).

Over the next few months, at our club meetings, we will explore the world of microcontrollers and microcomputers. The Arduino and Raspberry Pi boards come fully assembled and tested so don't worry about any intensive kit building. However we will be prototyping so there will be plenty of hands-on tinkering, maybe a little soldering, definitely some problem solving, and a lot of fun and laughter --all while we learn about the world of computing. And yes you will explore and learn the basics of programming those little devils to make them do what you want.

We are going to work with both the Raspberry Pi (Model B) and the Arduino Uno (Revision 3). The Arduino series seems more centered around sensing and controlling (microcontroller) and is a perfect platform for many "Amateur Radio" type projects. The Raspberry Pi is a full featured microcomputer -- just add a keyboard, mouse, and monitor and away you go.

We are going to explore the Arduino Uno first learning the basics of the device, voltage dividers, current sensing, and programming. After experimenting and building a few projects with the Arduino we will graduate to the *Pastries Program* and learn to bake a "Raspberry Pi".

So clean off that workbench, shine those tools, and buy a new magnifying glass. At the February club meeting we will assemble a list of ingredients to get us started. As always we will do a bulk purchase of materials for those who need some or all of the necessary items. Check out the links below or Google "Arduino" and "Raspberry Pi" for some good reading.

<http://arduino.cc/en/Main/arduinoBoardUno>

<http://www.element14.com/community/community/raspberry-pi>

**Raspberry Pi continued from Page 3**

—73, Rick Bell KB3IAC





# The Two Meter Contest Adventures of Carl & Quinn

## (Part 2) Lynn Richards AAA2ZZ

**S**o 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.

Early Saturday evening, Carl and Quinn got themselves going and the RV fitted with the Yagi array on the roof down the road to an area west of the zip codes they were going to work from and once there set up the station with the Yagis raised and pointed mainly to the east. They had rigged up a block and tackle to raise and lower the dual array from its traveling position flat atop the roof of the RV to its operating position high over the RV which gave excellent f/b isolation off the rear of the array while giving them tremendous forward gain.

They were about to jump into the contest at 7:00 pm. but were alarmed when they discovered a small fire on the RV's propane kitchen stove where they were boiling water for hot chocolate. They both smelled the burning paper towel carelessly left too close to the pilot light but within moments got things under control

After flailing their arms and shouting incoherently at the fire. With the paper towel consumed and the fire out they opened the windows to vent the smoke. Regaining their "stately" composure they commenced making contacts in the two meter contest and right off the bat found another mobile station who was easy to contact. They were well acquainted with this fellow ham having shared many of their operating activities over the years with him. His day job was in IT but supplemented his income with freelance writing; they were both good source material for his articles.

They agreed to leave their VFO "A" set to an FM frequency and VFO "B" set to a SSB frequency so they could shuttle easily between the two modes as they roved from zip code to zip code. They made a few contacts but weren't too aggressive making very many as they were having too much fun and to some extent encountered some glitches with their "jury rigged" array atop the RV roof.

"Carl, I think there's a knot in the rope that holds the array down." Quinn said as he tried to lower the antennas.

They had gotten the idea of using some of the hood pistons Quinn found from a guy selling boxes of the things at the WACOM Hamfest. He'd picked up a dozen of the small units figuring they'd come in handy some day. Well, today was that day! Now, no one really knew how much weight these bad boys could lift but since a pair of these had to hold a car hood in place without falling, the boys figured if two were good, six would be better. (It should be noted here the boys shared a keen appreciation for "Red Green", the do-it-yourselfers man of men, whom their wives disdained. See: <http://www.redgreen.com/watch.html>).

"Yup, it's definitely stuck or jammed. I'll go up on the roof and check it out." And having confirmed his suspicions from the comfort of Mother Earth, Quinn began his trek up the flimsy ladder at the back of the RV that lead to the roof.

And it was about the time that Carl shouted, "Wait! I have a VE3 station!" that Quinn discovered that Murphy had built the ladder which then collapsed under his weight. With the antenna rope still in his hand, Quinn fell only a few feet when the rope went taut, then slowly lowered him the last foot to the ground. Believing his bacon had been saved by the roof mounted pistons and at the same time correcting the problem of only a few moments earlier, he scrambled into the coach to work the VE3 station.

"Let me work him!" shouted Quinn as he tripped up the metal stairs.

"Man, he was there and now he's gone, just like someone pulled the plug or something," replied Carl.

"We might as well move onto our next stop at Peterswood Park," remarked Quinn, not wanting to reveal his recent brush with certain death or at the very least gross embarrassment.

So on they drove to Peterswood Park recounting all the weird hams they'd seen at Dayton over the years. Quinn nearly ripped the stitches from a hernia laughing so hard when talking about the guy who one year was walking around with a kilowatt amplifier and screwdriver antenna strapped to his back.

"Can you imagine how much that guy must have been glowing at the end of the day?" quipped Carl as he approached the intersection of Valley Brook and Bebout roads where the Montour Trail overpass stood high above the pavement.

"Sniff sniff... Do you smell something? Something... *burning*?" quizzed Carl, at which point they both looked at each other with eyes the size of porcelain insulators, and together shouted, "**THE STOVE!!!**"

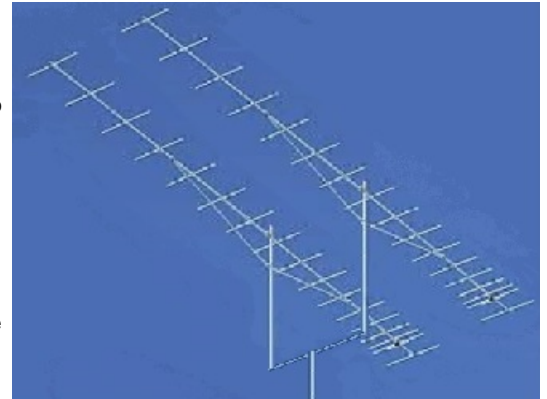
Glancing back they saw a flicker of dancing flames licking out the kitchen window on the driver side panel above the stove, not a large fire but enough to get their undivided attention and cause some minor damage to the cheap paneling of the vintage '70s RV. It was also enough fire to have done even more damage to the tar based sealant of the RV roof which was by this time mostly engulfed as they turned right onto Bebout Road.

Just then there was heard coming from the roof, "VOOSH!!" as if something had gone supersonic. This was followed by the loud crash of metal crushing against metal or more accurately, aluminum tubing slamming into steel girders. All this thunderous noise was followed by the screech of brakes as Quinn brought the RV to a stop just past the Montour Trail overpass, followed by the high pitched tinkling of small bits of aluminum rod falling onto the pavement.

The fire department noted in their report that, "...Shortly after the fire reached the gas powered pistons supporting the aluminum 'antenna structure' on the roof, the gas in the pistons expanded explosively causing the aluminum structure to catapult vertically as the RV passed under the Montour Trail overpass. The impact of the aluminum structure caused a catastrophic failure of the roof-mounted air conditioning unit, and in doing so the coolant completely extinguished the fire on the roof. As a safe precaution however, and as part of policy the fire team foamed down the entire vehicle, inside and out."

Even though the fire station was only one minute away from the scene, the vehicle was later declared a complete loss.

The boys however were able to retrieve their WASH 2 Meter score sheets which they mailed in the following Monday morning.



You've heard of the Raspberry Pi, but have you ever seen one?  
Far right: W3WN's Pi in front of a 15" monitor... to give you a perspective of it's size.

Right: A closeup of the Pi (inside it's case) itself.

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Ron Notarius W3WN



## Repeater Project, Phase IV: 442.550

Ron Notarius W3WN

With Phase 3 of the Repeater Move project complete several months ago, the move of 146.955 to St. Clair Hospital can be termed, even at this early stage, a rousing success. Our "main" repeater is back in the heart of our membership area, can easily be accessed by the bulk of our membership, and HT coverage throughout much of the South Hills has been restored.

We're also seeing a very welcome upswing in repeater usage, and new calls from area hams are popping up all the time – including club members, friends of the club, and potential new club members as well.

So what's the next step?

The 442.550 machine remains at the WPGH-TV transmitter site on the North Side. So often an after-thought to the 2 meter machine, and very under-utilized (in large part due to the excellent coverage of the N3FB/R machine on 443.650), it's high time we did something with it besides simply maintaining it.

Both repeaters have had an interesting history. Many of you may know that 955 was originally the repeater of the one-time Mt. Lebanon High School ARC, and that it was taken over by Pet N3RNX & Steve W3SRL after the club ceased to exist. You may also know that the current physical repeaters were government-surplus machines that Pete & Steve got their hands on. But did you know that the 442.55 repeater was originally in use during the last Los Angeles Olympic Games? Pete tells us that while the 955 box needed some tweaking to be put on 2 meters, 55 was ready to go.

In it's past, as W3SRL/R, 442.55 was used for some experimenting, and was an EchoLink node. But since it was co-located with 955, first in Mt. Lebanon, and then ant Channel 53, it's been, well, redundant.

With 955 moving back to the South Hills, though, the situation has changed. Look at these computer models of the coverage maps for both repeaters (see inserts), courtesy of Ron Telek W3LE. You will see that 955 has a distinct disadvantage when it comes to covering Downtown Pittsburgh and points both East and NorthEast along the Allegheny River... it basically has none. This is due to the terrain; in part because of Mt. Washington, in part because the Point lies so much lower in the river valley, compared to the other side of the hill.

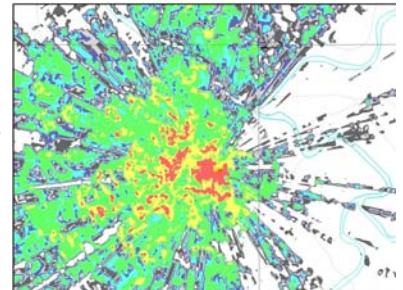
However: 550 has excellent coverage of these very areas, and then some. A 1 Watt HT on 440 can easily access 550, as both KB3ERQ & I have determined from within our office.

What I propose for the next stage of the Repeater project is that we permanently link 146.955 and 442.550. This give our repeater system coverage that 955 by itself does not have.

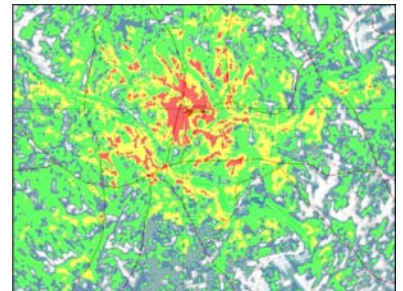
I've asked Frank about what would be involved. He tells me that it would be fairly easy, with a minimum of equipment and antennas, to install what we need for the link at 955, and that the new controller on 955 can easily handle the link equipment.

So, what do you think? Do you agree that the time has come to make full use of 55?

*146.955 Coverage Map centered on St. Clair Hospital. 442.550 Coverage Map centered on WPGH-TV. Computer models courtesy of Ron Telek W3LE*



146.955 Coverage Map



442.550 Coverage Map

## How My Ham Radio Experience Began

John Seney WD1V courtesy of [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)

Sometimes life changes in mere moments with long standing new effects. Elegant forces push circumstances larger than our planning calendars. At age 14 in Detroit, back in the summer of 1962, my universe got oddly nudged. I never saw it coming. It seemed very strange then but now, divinely perfect.

My Mother accused me of firing an arrow that stuck into the ground of our back yard where she was on her knees weeding. The arrow had just missed her. She thought I had done it as a dangerous practical joke. She confronted me in our den as I watched television and ate my lunch. I swore I knew nothing about it. She said I could finish my lunch after I found the culprit. I was innocent, clueless, and curious as to how this event had happened. I proceeded up our street carrying the arrow and now feeling like Marshall Dillon on the trail of an armed and dangerous outlaw.

About three houses up our street, I spotted a man twice my age with a strange look on his face. It seemed too coincidental that he was walking towards me. I asked him if he had shot the arrow. He instantly confessed and explained he was trying to put up an antenna and his fishing line broke. Say what?

This was the most bizarre explanation I had ever heard about anything. I had him break it down for me and gained some dipole theory and fishline physics for 14 year olds. Within minutes, I was in his basement getting my first tour of an amateur radio ham station. A well lit big desk was called the operating table. The receiver sat here. Click. The large transmitter there. Click. Power inrush sound and purple lights came on from mercury vapor rectifiers. Pre-Hendrix technical sacredness. Here was his chromed microphone like the broadcasters used. My God, this was the coolest thing I had ever experienced. Owned by a private citizen and licensed by the federal government. It had assigned call letters by the FCC that were his unique identity. And the station wasn't a pretend toy or model. It was real and actually worked. He had QSL postcards from all over proving his contacts. Within minutes we were calling CQ and chatting with someone 100 miles away. Next contact much further away. DX! This was the latest technology. No satellites, cell phones, or internet yet.

I had met an important new friend that was answering all my questions like a spiritual guru. I connected lots of dots. Up to this time, this was the absolutely coolest day of my life. He gave me my Novice test about 30 days later. I had learned Morse code. I was getting to the ham stores every weekend. QST magazines and a license manual were in my bedroom and bathrooms. I was so hooked it became my new glasses. I saw everything through the eyes of amateur radio. I was on board with the greatest hobby in the world. And the friends I would meet along the way were some of the neatest brightest people on the planet. Great, great friends. My life was enriched to an extraordinary level.

Evolution happened fast but created a lot of memorable milestones. It was good bye tubes hello transistors, ICs, and micro-processors. Transceivers replaced separates. Computers created paperless logs, new modes like packet, DSP, and SDRs. Stations got really small and some were even in space operated by astronauts. The backbone is still communications. We are collectively pragmatists, communicators, helpers, educators, and understanding folks. We tend to rely on science and technology for our solutions and facts library. We are international friends without political, religious, or economic borders. All with the potential to put an arrow in your back yard and violating the age old rule - never talk to strangers!

Will we eventually discover how life creates these gifts starting with such bizarre circumstances?

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>



## Azores Islands

Martti Laine OH2BH [martti.laine@kolumbus.fi](mailto:martti.laine@kolumbus.fi)

Finally snow has fallen in the Far North and it's time for the snowbirds to depart for warmer climates. This time around, the team of OH2BE, OH2BH, OH2PM, OH8NC and OH8NJ will join forces with the locals CU2CE and CU2DX and the Azores to hit the airwaves with a variety of call signs such as CR2A and CR2X in contests, and CU2KG & CU2KH otherwise.

The activity will start on February 12 and run until March 3 including the ARRL DX Contest, both CW & SSB, and the CQ 160M SSB Contest. CR2A/CR2X QSL manager is OH2BH.

Additionally, the Azores (CU2) will be activated in Virtual World for the first time along with Madeira (CT3). You can download a free trial version of your Virtual Radio and associated QSL and awards programs at [www.hamsphere.com](http://www.hamsphere.com).

The first Two World DXpedition (Real & Virtual) was OG0A --- for details, have a look at [www.qrz.com/db/OG0A](http://www.qrz.com/db/OG0A).

With Real and Virtual Amateur Radio now coexisting on an experimental basis through these activities, the purpose is to allow interested young people to enjoy a realistic, instant experience of our great passion with structured communications and friends all over the world.

Having such a positive experience provides an important incentive for license studies and is meaningful prior to investment in personal radio equipment. This approach is worth testing as it may have great potential in terms of facilitating the intake of young people into Real Amateur Radio, an endeavor now pursued actively in many countries.

The weekend of February 22-23 is slated for a special activity from CU2, CT3 and it will be a great opportunity to test the system.

## Heard Island Postponed

425 DX Bulletin #1188 8 February 2014

*Originally planned for January 2014 and then postponed to January 2015, the expedition to Heard Island, (VKØEK) is now scheduled for January 2016. Version 2.3 of the "Project Description" was released on 1 February, and can be found at [www.heardisland.org](http://www.heardisland.org) (click on Documents).*

Following his visit to the Australian Antarctic Division office in Hobart, Tasmania, Expedition Organizer Dr. Robert Schmieder KK6EK made the final decisions that will define the expedition.

The expedition now scheduled for January 2016. It will use the Belgian vessel "Cdt. Fourcault", taking a team of 35 persons. The entire journey will take about 50 days, with one month at the island.

The team will be made up of several sub-teams (mountaineering, cryptobiology, marine science, communications, documentation), each with its own goals. Their activities will be presented on separate real-time interactive websites.

The communications team will use amateur radio to make up to 150,000 individual contacts worldwide using the call sign **VKØEK**, and provide real-time reporting of data and images to the Internet, including automatically updating websites that display the activities of the team.

For more information, please visit the expedition website [www.heardisland.org](http://www.heardisland.org).

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  
 Large DC Power Supply (50A?): \$100  
 Heathkit Phone Patch: \$15  
 Heathkit frequency counter: \$15  
 A large lot of electronics components (Caps, resistors, transistors, etc.)

For more information, contact Chuck  
 W3YNI [w3ynil@gmail.com](mailto:w3ynil@gmail.com)

## DX News Briefs



**CYØNA1AXC** is a relatively new ham who will be based on Sable Island during the next few months. Due to work commitments, his operating time will be limited during the next few months, but he hopes to have more free time for operating in the spring. More information at <http://qrz.com/db/JE1LET>. QSL via JE1LET — DX World

F4BMR is now QRV as **TO4YL** from **FM** Martinique8—22 February, 160—10 Meter. QSL via F5GN — F5GN

A group of operators will be active from Bequia NA-025 in St. Vincent & Grenadines 10—18 February. Look for **J8/W3FF**, **J8/W6HFP**, **J8/WZ1P**, **J8/WGØAT**, **J8/KC4VG**, **J8/KB9AVO**, **J8/K8EAB** & **J8/W7ZT**, all running 100 watts to portable antennas from various points on the island, using CW, SSB & Digital. QSL via their home calls. — DX World

DK3ID will be QRV as **7P8ID** 11—16 February, 40—6 M SSB. QSL via DK3ID or OE8IDK — DK3ID

**JW/DL2RJM**, **JW/DL5CW** & **JW/DL6JF** will be QRV 12—19 February, including the ARRL DX CW Contest, on HF. QSL each via their home call.

DL2SBY will be QRV as **8Q7KB** 12—24 February, 30—10 meters, SSB CW & RTTY. QSL via DL2SBY — DL2SBY, DX World

JA8BMK will be QRV from Ho Chi Minh City 13—17 February as **3W2DX**. This will be followed 18 February—28 March as **XV7BM**, focusing on 160 and 80 Meters. QSL both via JA8BMK — DX World

As part of ARRL's Centennial QSO Party, KN4KL and W4WV will activate **W1AW/KG4** from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 26 February 4 March. This may mark the first time the US Navy has authorized the use of a "portable" call sign from Gitmo. QSL via ARRL Headquarters (225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111) or Logbook of The World — ARRL

DL2AFS and DJ7ZG will be QRV as **V21FS** & **V21ZG** for 4 weeks starting 26 February, focusing on SSB, RTTY & PSK. More information at <http://www.qsl.net/dl7afs/>. QSL via DL7AFS — DX World

NL8F will be travelling in the Indian Ocean area, starting on 6 March with Frasier Island OC-142 as **VK4/NL8F**, followed by Norfolk Island as either **VK9NF** or **VK9N/NL8F**, 15—22 March. He concludes as **T32TM** on Christmas Island 25 March to 2 April. QSL all via K8NA — NL8F

3Z9DX plans to be QRV as **SØ/3Z9DX** for one week sometime in mid-March. He'll be 40—10 M SSB only. QSL via 3Z9DX — 3Z9DX

**ZL7AAA** Chatham Island plans to be QRV 20 March through 1 April. More information will be available at <http://www.qsl.net/zl7aaa/> — ZL7AAA

7 UK operators will be QRV as **TX6G** from Raivavae OC-114 in the Austral Islands 20 March through 1 April, CW SSB & RTTY (but no PSK), using up to three stations at any one time. They will use ClubLog. More information at <http://tx6g.com/>. QSL via G3TXF — G3TXF

## QSL Routes

3D2GC via LZ1GC -- JA1HGY	VP2MMN via DF8AN -- JA1HGY
5B4/R3CC via RW3RN -- N8IK	VP2MXT via G3TXF -- G3TXF
6V7S via RK4FF -- N8IK	VP6T via G3TXF -- G3TXF
9N7BM via JA8BMK -- JA1HGY	XT26DJ via OK6DJ -- OK6DJ
C21BN via JH1NBN -- IK2RPE	XT2FCJ via OK6DJ -- OK6DJ
C53CW via YL3CW -- WC6DX	XZ1J via JH1AJT -- W3AWU
FR/DJ7RJ via DJ7RJ -- NF4L	YO8ØØCW via YL3CW -- WC6DX
J34J via JA1HGY -- W4WN	Z6ØWW via OH2BH -- N8IK
K9W via AA4NN -- W4EN	Z68BH via OH2BH -- JA1HGY
P3N VIA RW3RN -- N8IK	Z81D via OM3JW -- VE3EXY
S21ZBC via IK2VUC -- W3AWU	Z81R via OH2BH -- JA1HGY
TO3JA via JA3AVO -- JA1HGY	Z81X via OHØXX -- VE3EXY
TO4FM via EA5GL -- JA1HGY	Z81Z via K4ZW -- AA5AM
TRØA via SM7EHU -- W3AWU	ZD8W via W6NV -- N8IK

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.

P.O. Box 201

Canonsburg, PA 15317-0201

Toll-Free 1-800-545-8881

Fax: (412) 746-5944

[bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com](mailto:bill.hill@hamradioinsurance.com)

"All-Risk" Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance Plan for:

Radio Equipment	Computer Equipment
Antennas Rotors & Towers	Computer Media & Software
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)



The Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club **KP4AO** is setting up a new Amateur Radio station in the facility's Angel Ramos Visitor Center exhibition.

Club President Angel Vazquez WP3R said the new station will offer an opportunity to showcase ham radio to the thousands who visit the observatory each year.

The announcement came during a behind-the-scenes tour of the deep-space Radiotelescope campus, held in conjunction with the recent ARRL Puerto Rico Section Convention in Hatillo.

As for the convention, "Wow, what a weekend we had!" was the reaction of Angel Luis Santana WP3GW ARRL Public Information Coordinator for Puerto Rico. "A great success!"

The Arecibo Observatory recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, and KP4AO hosted a special event for the occasion. The new KP4AO station is expected to be completed in about 3 months.

## FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 — The FCC has **announced** that it is transitioning away from its so-called "**transition website**" front page, which has been in place for the last 3 years. The Commission said the move, starting February 3, is in line with its plans to gradually wean users from the transition website.

"All content formerly on the old transition front page — including links to our most popular tools and resources — is available on the **FCC.gov home page**, and personal bookmarks to items once featured on the old page will continue to work," the FCC has said. "Starting February 3, the transition front page will redirect automatically to the **FCC.gov** home page. For those who continue to use [transition.fcc.gov](http://transition.fcc.gov), please note that this action affects only one page of the transition site — the front page."

The FCC introduced its new website design in 2011, running it in parallel with the old design that users had become familiar with over the many years it's been in place. The FCC said its decision now to phase out the transition front page was based on a steady decline in usage, since the initial FCC website redesign.

Also starting February 3, the FCC will replace the transition link in the top right corner with a link to the **FCC Phonebook**, making that resource available on virtually every FCC.gov page. The FCC invites **feedback** on its website.

The FCC has invited comments by February 18 on the latest batch of **draft recommendations** of its Advisory Committee for World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-2015). At its January 27 meeting, the Advisory Committee (WAC) approved draft recommendations on a number of issues that will be considered by WRC-2015. Some items, including one which could possibly lead to changes to 60 meters in the long term, could affect the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, is a member of the WAC, which is chartered to allow non-federal government entities to "provide to the [FCC] advice, technical support, and recommended proposals for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference."

"Based upon an initial review of the draft recommendations forwarded to the Commission, the International Bureau, in coordination with other Commission Bureaus and Offices, tentatively concludes that we can generally support most of the attached WRC-15 Advisory Committee draft recommendations," the Commission said in a January 28 **Public Notice**.

The FCC also seeks comment on **draft proposals** from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (**NTIA**) as well as on the International Bureau's initial conclusions with regard to the WRC-15 Advisory Committee draft recommendations.

WRC-2012 Resolution 649 invited WRC-2015, to consider allocating "an appropriate amount of spectrum, not necessarily contiguous," to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis within the band 5250 to 5450 kHz. "In order to maintain effective and reliable communications capability throughout the sunspot cycle, allocations at regular intervals are desirable, in order to permit operation as close to the maximum usable frequency as possible," the WAC said in its draft recommendations. Incumbent services in the 5250 to 5450 kHz range include fixed, mobile, and radiolocation services.

"A secondary allocation from 5275 to 5450 kHz avoids the unsuitable segment allocated to the Radiolocation Service, reduces the interval between HF amateur allocations below 10 MHz to permit reliable operation throughout the sunspot cycle, and maximizes the flexibility of Amateur Service stations to effectively communicate within the secondary allocation and fulfills their obligations to avoid harmful interference to primary services," the WAC concluded.

WRC-2015 will also consider a number of issues that could impact Amateur allocations above 420 MHz, including a possible extension of the current worldwide allocation to the Earth Exploration-Satellite service in the band 9300 to 9900 MHz by up to 600 MHz "within the frequency bands 8700 to 9300 MHz and/or 9900 to 10,500 MHz" Incumbent services in the 9900 to 10,500 MHz range include the Radiolocation, Fixed, Mobile, Amateur, and Amateur-Satellite services.

The FCC said comments provided by interested parties will assist it in its consultations with the US Department of State and NTIA in the development of US positions for WRC-2015. "The recommendations...may evolve in the course of interagency discussions as we approach WRC-15 and, therefore, do not constitute a final US Government position on any issue."

Comments should reference **IB Docket 04-286** and specific recommendations by WAC document number. Interested parties may file comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (**ECFS**). The ARRL plans to file comments in this proceeding.

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**



# WASHfest 2014

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

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

Limited VE Testing!  
Contact W3WN

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

Mobile Check-In Prizes!  
Must check in on .955  
by 10:00 AM



(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)



Rejoice!!! WASHFest is Almost here!

