



WASHRAGTM

TM



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 04 APRIL 2014

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 04

APRIL 2014

Next Monthly Meeting: April 10th, 2014

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, April 10th 2014**, at the **Crossroads Ministries Church**, 88 Walter Long Road off Route 88, Finleyville PA, starting at 7:00 PM.

Dayton Hamvention, Breezeshooter's Hamfest & Picnic, Field Day 2014, the ongoing Arduino & Raspberry Pi Workshop(s), and other plans for the rest of the year will be amongst the topics. See you there!

Cover Photo: Working on the Arduino project while enjoying our annual post-hamfest Pizza Night. What more could anyone ask for? (Besides \$10,000 in small, non sequential bills?)

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Glen Roberts KE7FD

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 2015 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 at n3sh dot org or w3wn at arrl dot net**

"The WASHRag", **"The Mariner"**, **SHARCfest**, **South Hills Hamfest**, **WASHfest**, **WASHfest 2015**, **N3SH Net**, **WA3SH Net** and **WASHNet** are TM trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3SH-W3SRL Repeater System and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test April 17th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, April 17th, 2014, 7:00 PM, at **WPXI TV**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, 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 Liaison Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn@n3sh dot 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, July 17th, 2014
Thursday, October 16th, 2014
Location: WPXI TV 11, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Carol's Comments

Field Day will be discussed at our next meeting. This year, we will be at Outlook Grove in South Park on June 28th & 29th.

Field Day is a lot of fun! We have a great time making contacts, enjoying each others company and of course good food. Hope to see you there!

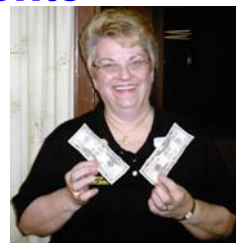
Rick Bell will be working on his Arduino work shop project as soon as the meeting is over. I will try to move it along as quick as possible.

Harold had a very interesting question on the Sunday night net; What is your favorite part of the Amateur Radio Hobby. There were so many responses that it was hard to pin point it to one subject. Other than doing contests, I would have to say that acquiring friendships over the years is my favorite.

Happy Easter to all!

See you on Thursday.

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



WWV silenced it's 25 MHz transmitter in 1977... but it's currently back on the air on an "experimental" basis.

It briefly returned for a few hours on April 4th, and came back on the air with another test starting on April 7th, through "the rest of the week"

The 25 MHz WWV signal can be a good propagation check for 10, 12, and 15 meters.

NIST is requesting reception reports. Please email them to wwv@nist.gov

And special thanks to WWV Lead Electrical Engineer Matt Deutch NØRG for making this return to the airwaves happen!

March 29th was a gorgeous, cool morning... at least for those of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** who did NOT sleep through their alarm. Sorry about that, so we have an abbreviated report from **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. As per Jim WB4GCS (thanks Jim), present & accounted for were KB3DCO, K3HCR, KE7FD, K3SGT & Barb, W3WH, N3IDH, N3FB, and KB3GMU. And at least one or two more that didn't get recorded, so our apologies over that.

We shall meet again at full strength on April 27th, and Ye Editor promises to set his alarm right! So, please join us 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!

Rick KB3IAC passes the following along for those working on the Arduino project: "We will be continuing our Arduino workshop this Thursday evening after the regular WASH business meeting. Please bring your Arduino, breadboard, jumpers, components, etc. You will also need your laptop and a volt meter with a DC Volt and Ohms scale.

If you have a 9 volt battery and battery clip please bring them. If you have a 3 volt battery setup and a 6 volt battery setup please bring those also. (2 AA cell holder and leads & 4 AA cell holder and leads) We are looking to have a 3 volt, 6 volt, and 9 volt DC source.

Here is what we will try to cover with bread boarding and programming: Additional programming of digital outputs; Digital inputs; Analogue inputs; Voltage Dividers; Serial Communications."

Thanks to Danny KA3UTS, we've gotten some **news from AI KA3UPY**: "Carol and I are no longer on the water. A drunk hit our boat on our way to Maine. actually, we were anchored in Fishing Bay on the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia. We weren't injured but the boat was critically wounded. Carol started having dreams of drowning and we both knew that the marine phase of our life was over.

Plan "B" is firmly under way. We bought a motorhome and headed west. We are currently in year two of the western tour. We went home to Florida for Christmas with family and quality time with our Doctors. We escaped in late January and completed the winter in the desert. We are right where CA, NV and AZ meet. This year we are headed on a loop that takes us to the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone (for the second time), and west to Washington, OR, and then across by September to meet some old neighbor friends in NM.

This year, we will head back to Florida. We need to move into the condo for a two year period prior to selling and moving, somewhere.

If you are going to be in the West Palm area next winter please let us know. we have a fold out and you are welcome."

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Webmaster Sean N3NWR, and Ye Editor going through a lot of half-forgotten boxes looking for old CD's, we now have **ALL back editions of the WASHRag available on the N3SH web site**. Everything is sorted by year. So if you ever have a few hours to spare, and want to get a snapshot of what the club & club members have done & gone through in the last 16+ years...

Hey! Almost forgot that we have a **WASH VEC Exam** coming up on **April 17th**! As of deadline, we don't have anyone pre-registered, but that can change... and we may always have walk-ins! Two or more of the club VE's are needed to volunteer (please e-mail W3WN) a few hours for the exam session. Reminder that it will be held in the conference room at WPXI 11, 4145 Evergreen Road, just off I-279 and McKnight Road.

And thanks once again to Frank N3FB for making the arrangements for us to hold our test sessions there for the rest of the year.

WASHNet 2014 NCS Schedule

04/06/2014 Harold K3HCR	06/15/2014 Sean N3NWR
04/13/2014 Bob AB3ED	06/22/2014 Carol KB3GMN
04/20/2014 Rick KB3IAC	06/29/2014 Fred KB3DCO
04/27/2014 Sean N3NWR	07/06/2014 Glen KE7FD
05/04/2014 Carol KB3GMN	07/13/2014 Larry K3VX
05/11/2014 Fred KB3DCO	07/20/2014 Bob AB3ED
05/18/2014 Glen KE7FD	07/27/2014 Harold K3HCR
05/25/2014 Larry K3VX	08/03/2014 Sean N3NWR
06/01/2014 Bob AB3ED	08/10/2014 Carol KB3GMN
06/08/2014 Harold K3HCR	08/17/2014 Fred KB3DCO

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2014 Today! Membership Application on Page 15!

Minutes, March 13th Meeting

Ben Williams KB3ERQ, Vice President / Secretary, **WASH**

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:05 hours. There were 18 members and guests in attendance.

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

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Bill W3WH, second by Ben KB3ERQ, passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

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

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No report

VE (W3WN): One candidate at **WASHFest**, who successfully passed Tech. Next test session in April at WPXI, thanks to Frank N3FB

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeating. Short discussion regarding the future use of 442.55, with regards to permanently or semi-permanently linking it to 146.955 to extend 955 communications range to Downtown and Oakland.

WASHNet (KE7FD): Attendance could pick up. Further discussion on moving the digital net to Sunday evenings, after the voice FM net concludes.

Contests(K3VX): Newsletter calendar shows most upcoming contests.

Field Day 2014 (K3VX, KB3IVX): We will be operating from Outlook Grove in South Park, off Brownsville Road. This is the same grove we had the last picnic at. This is a nice grove, but there is no commercial power. This should not be a problem however as it will just encourage us to "rough it a little" and make this simulated emergency exercise a little more realistic. There are some generators with in the club membership that could be used.

WASHFest 2014 (KB3GMN, W3WH): A huge success! Attendance was the highest in many years, possibly an all time high. Club did extremely well financially. Plans for 2015, our 20th hamfest have started; ideas for anything special to do are being solicited. Current plans are to keep the number of main, door, and other prizes about the same as this year. Public Service (N3RDV): Mike King is asking for volunteers for the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 15th.

Public Service (N3RDV): No report. Jeff N3NHS spoke briefly about the need for operators for this year's City of Pittsburgh Marathon on May 4th, followed by a short discussion about some of the changes in the need for Amateurs over the years. Amateur Radio is primarily the support for the medical systems (aid stations); more and more, we are being relied on as the primary backup in the event that their main systems fail.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out. If your email address has changed, or you're not getting the newsletter via email and want to, see Ron. Sean also mentioned that the same goes for the new N3SH Google Group.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): 50/50 tonight... 'show me the money!'

President's Report (KB3GMN): No report (everything already covered)

Old Business:

- Bylaws committee has been on hiatus, but we are going to continue work on this.
- We were able to liquidate most of the rest of Kevin's stuff. two Antennas are left.

New Business:

- WASH is going to rent a table at the 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest. April 27th Sunday. We need some **WASH** members to be at our club table.
- Field Day 2014 shirts or field day pins are available, we will get them at Dayton again this year.

Good of the order:

- Glen KE7FD talked about a friend who is just finishing up Chemo. He just upgraded to his general. He would like us to make ourselves available to give advice and maybe allow visits our stations. Those in attendance thought this was a good idea and represented the clubs overall desire to get to more Elmering.
- Frank N3FB brought up having a car clinic type event where people could get their mobile setups ready. Maybe get help with antenna and power pole connections etc. This idea was also very well received and would likely help people get on the air more often!

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Harold K3HCR and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:38 hours.

Consumption of Pizza followed. The Arduino workshop then continued from where they left off after last meeting.

WASH Spotlight: Pizza!!



Fred KB3DCO enjoying the Pizza at the March meeting.
Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Glen Roberts KE7FD

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

AB3ED	KB3IVX	W3LE	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent Keys
AB3EN	KB3JHR	W3RWS	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW	
AB3PJ	KB3PSB	W3VFA	W4ZE	WASH SC	AB3KA
AC4KU	KB3YCX	W3WH	WASH GA	N3RNK	K3EED
KØLIN	KB3YKL	W3WN	K3OL	WASH TN	K3LIE
K3AIR	KC3BQI	WB4GCS	KB3IJX	KE3XB	KA3NMG
K3GW	KC4WTT	Darryn Sleeman	WASH ID	N3YPB	KB3ENX
K3HCR	KE7FD		N3ZNI	WASH TX	KB3FNM
K3LGM	KJ3D		WASH NE	K3LGM	KB3FQT
K3SGT	N2QIV		NØPEU	Jane Wagner	N3FZ
K3VX	N3BPB		WASH OR	WASH VI	N3HKQ
KA3ANU	N3DFK		NØVLR	NP2JF	N3KEH
KB3RXY	N3FB		NØWPV		N3OBD
KB3DCO	N3IDH		KB3NVL		N3SKR
KB3ERQ	N3NWR		KB3NVM		N3SRC
KB3GMN	N3OVO				N3ZEL
KB3GMP	N3RDV				N3XFE
KB3GMU	N3RHT				W3ZLK
KB3IAC	N3SBF				WA3JPP

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through April 6th, 2014
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2014 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

April 10 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
April 17 th	WASH VEC Exams	@ WPXI TV, Evergreen Road, Pgh
April 20 th	WPRC Meeting, Warren PA	http://www.wprcinfo.org
April 27 th	Two Rivers ARC Hamfest	http://www.trarc.net/trarc-hamfest
May 4 th	City of Pittsburgh Marathon	http://marathon.central.org
May 8 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
May 16 th —18 th	Dayton Hamvention	http://www.hamvention.org
June 1 st	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.net
June 1 st	WASH Picnic @ Breezeshooters	http://www.n3sh.org
June 12 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
June 14 th	ARRL WPA EMCOMM Conference	http://wpaares.org
June 14 th —16 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 28 th - 29 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 10 th	WASH Meeting	@ Crossroad Ministries Church
July 19 th	North Hills ARC Hamfest	http://www.nharc.org
July 19 th —20 th	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix	http://www.pvgp.org
July 20 th	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	http://www.k3smt.org/hamfest/
July 20 th	WPRC Meeting, Punxsutawney	http://www.wprcinfo.org
September 7 th	BCARA Swapfest 2014	http://www.w3udx.org/Hamfest.htm
September 13 th -15 th	ARRL September VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
October 11 th -12 th	Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html
October 19 th	WPRC Meeting, Altoona	http://www.wprcinfo.org
November 1 st -3 rd	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 2 nd	WACOM 2014 Hamfest	http://wacomarc.org
November 15 th -17 th	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	http://www.arrl.org

A Visit To the Polish VP2V DXpedition

Kevin McGrath K6TOP

The British Virgin Islands (VP2V) are a group dozen or so small Caribbean islands located 100 miles East of Puerto Rico. The largest and most populous of the BVIs is Tortola, where the capital of Roadtown is located. 20 miles north of Tortola is the island of Anegada, the second largest of the BVIs - and the least populated. It is a low, flat coral island, with a population of about 200.

I had an opportunity to visit the Polish DXpedition to Anegada, British Virgin Islands on March 23, while I was on a sailing vacation there. The team was active for several weeks until April 1st.

I have been traveling to the BVIs for 20+ years to vacation and sail. I often bring the rig and operate as VP2V/K6TOP. In the 2013 ARRL 10M contest, my wife's cousin Robert (W6RWC) and I operated from Anegada and made some 2300 QSOs.

Upon learning that I would be on Anegada at the same time as the Polish DXpedition, I emailed Janusz SP9FIH and asked him if I could stop by for a visit and meet the team. Janusz' response was very positive. He said that he and several of the team members had worked me both in the contest (as VP2VGG) or on one of my many vacations there (as VP2V/K6TOP) and would like to meet me.

On March 23, 2014 I arrived at Anegada anchorage on my 47' sailboat after a 2 hour sail from Virgin Gorda. After securing the boat on anchor at Setting Point on the southwest side of the island, I rented a car and drove to the Loblolly Beach Cottages on the northeast side of the island.

There I was met by Janusz SP9FIH and Kazik SP6CIK, who proved to be gracious hosts. They have rented 3 cottages on the sand dunes above the beach. What a great location! The site faces north and overlooks the sea about 25 meters away. They have a clear saltwater horizon from the NW (towards NA and over the pole to JA) around to the the ENE (to EU).

The antennas include a multi-band wire spider beam up 10 meters overlooking the beach and an HF9V multi-band trap vertical 25 meters from the water. The remainder of the antennas are vertically oriented and located on the beach near the water's edge.

The antennas were designed by the team specifically for DXpeditioning:

- ♦ 40meters: a two element vertical "C-beam" consisting of a driven element and a director
- ♦ 80 meter: vertical (also operates on 30meters)
- ♦ 10/15/17: vertical nested wire beam (like a spider beam, but oriented vertically)
- ♦ 12/15/20: vertical nested wire beam
- ♦ 160M: loaded vertical and 200M beverage for RX

After a tour of the antenna farm I met the rest of the Polish VP2V team: Leszek SP6CIK, Robert SP9WZS and Bogdon SP2FUD.

The plan was to keep 4 stations on the air during the day and 2 at night. They had 4 stations, Acom and Elecraft amps, two K3s and among other gear. With no set operator schedule, Kazik says "the guys just grab an unused coax to an antenna and start operating. They have to be quick about it, though!"

160m had been troublesome with heavy QRN during the rainstorms at night. The Beverage had been disappointing in reducing the QRN. The 40M vertical C-beam had been working great — even when barefoot with 80 watts they had been told they are very strong into NA and EU. Janusz says "Overall propagation has been very good" and they have made 15K QSOs in just 4 days.

Most of the team are experienced DXpeditioners. "There are many DXpedition profiles" Kazik explained. "They range from single-suitcase or backpack expeditions all the way to the hundred thousand dollar high-profile expeditions like FT5K. Ours is somewhere in the middle. We wish to de-emphasize filling of band-slot QSOs". There are no 'leaderboards' for this operation. The team hopes to fulfill VP2V demand from little-pistol stations as well as big-guns and also demand from Japan, Asia and the Pacific.

After sharing a beer, I reluctantly had to leave to pick up my wife and guests who were enjoying a swim at a nearby beach 1/2 mile from the operation. The Polish team were true ambassadors of the hobby and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting them.

That evening back on the boat I worked VP2V/SP9WZS on 18 MHz CW. My report sent was "UR 599, Robert. TU for the beer, 73."



40 Meter 2 element! "C Beam" & 10/15/17 wire beam on the beach



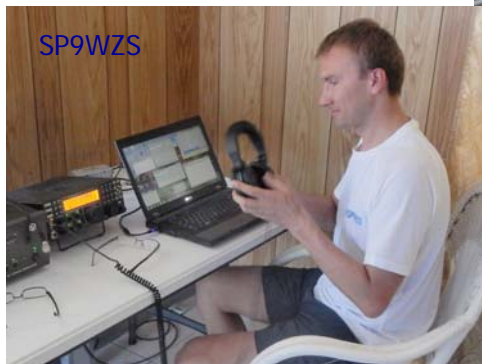
Spider Beam



L—R: SP9FUD, SP9WZS, K6TOP, SP6CIK & SP9AXW



All photos this page © Copyright 2014 Ken McGrath K6TOP



SP9WZS



SP6CIK

A Visit To W1AW

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Glen Roberts KE7FD



The most recognized operating position at W1AW



A W1AW Tower, view from the back of the building



This is Joe, the station manager... either showing KE7FD how to perform the "Vulcan Neck Pinch" or playing charades. Can you guess what he is?

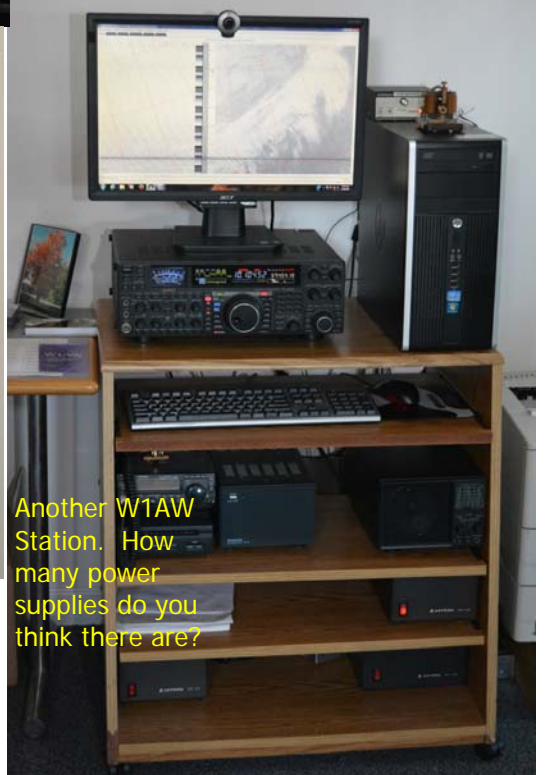


KE7FD at the mike of W100AW, working a pile-up



"The Man" (yes, that's how he smiled for the cameras)

It was fun operating W100AW last month. It was one of the only times I ever started a pileup!



Another W1AW Station. How many power supplies do you think there are?



Some of the latest gear to be tested at the ARRL Labs. Seriously, this is just some of the many pieces of ancient home made gear at ARRL Headquarters.

During the tour of the ARRL lab, our guide "Skip" made a point to avoid the popular Chinese radios. He said they are not clean, generating noticeable spurs beyond the intended frequency.



Yes, the ARRL has it's own club station... here it is!

Windows XP Support Is Ending! (The Sky is NOT falling!)

Ron Notarius W3WN

Microsoft Windows XP is (arguably) one of the largest installed home computer operating systems in North America, if not the world. Millions of home computers run it, as do thousands if not millions of specialized devices... such as 2/3 of the ATM's in North America.

XP was first released in for sale in October 2001. It quickly gained a large foothold, and until August 2012, according to some sources, was the most widely used home and business OS in the world. Today, it is still in use by approximately 25 – 30% of all active computers worldwide.

Microsoft stopped selling retail copies of XP as of July 1st, 2008. At the time, they announced that "Mainstream" support for XP would end in April, 2009, and that "Extended" support will end on April 8th, 2014. (An unusually long time, as Microsoft normally supports an OS for 10 years from the first date of release, but the commercial failure of XP's successor, Vista, was responsible for that)

That day of reckoning has arrived.

But what does it really mean?

First and foremost, in the immortal words of Douglas Addams:



Don't Panic.

A lot of XP users are under the mistaken impression, based on media hype, that their machines are suddenly cast aside, vulnerable to who knows what, and possibly may even stop working. But that is not the case.

Simply, all this means is that as of Tuesday, April 8th, Microsoft will no longer feel obligated to issue updates, patches, fixes, and so forth for XP. That doesn't mean that they won't occasionally happen; just that you can't expect them. Over time, this may be a problem – a year or three from now. But for the immediate future, such as the next year to 18 months, you most likely won't notice any difference.

Where you will most notice the difference will be with your web browsing. Most XP computer users still run Internet Explorer (IE). However, IE version 8 was the last release of IE that will run on XP. XP can not support the newer versions... by design. If you want to run a newer IE, you have to be running a newer Windows OS – Vista, Windows 7, or Windows 8.

This becomes a problem because more and more web sites are dropping backward compatibility for IE 8. Some won't come up; some will only give you partial screens, or won't work correctly. It also becomes a problem because, sad to say, some web sites have been hijacked by bad guys running nasty code in the background, trying to gain access to vulnerable machines. IE 8 & XP will, over time, become more and more vulnerable as problems are discovered, and exploited.

The simple solution is to load another browser and use it in place of IE. There are a lot out there; Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the most popular ones.

Another thing that you will notice is that, over time, more and more commercial applications will not be capable of running on XP. Even if they will run, if your computer is a little older, and slower than is expected of most machines in use today, or has a smaller hard drive, it could cause problems. (The 40 GB drives that were more than enough, years ago, are woefully inadequate today). There's no good solution; you may have to simply look for apps that will work on XP, or check auction sites like eBay for older copies of the software that people are making available. (Which brings up an entirely different issue regarding software licenses and resale, but that's another topic for another day.)

In essence, what you're looking at is that sometime in the near future, what you have running on your machine will be all that you can run on it.

Now, this sounds worse than it is. MOST of us use our machines for certain routine tasks – email, word processing, looking at pictures, browsing the web, playing some games. If you have these applications already installed, you ought to be able to run with them for quite some time to come.

If you're using your XP computer in the shack, many logging & control programs still work just fine with XP. Many of them were designed during the days of Windows 98 & Windows NT 4, and other older versions of Windows. So they PROBABLY won't notice the difference.

However, the reality is... eventually, you will have to upgrade or replace your machine. Just, not today.

Upgrading Windows

There are several versions of Windows that have come out in the last few years. It is possible that your XP machine may be able to run them, especially if it's a relatively newer model.

When Microsoft released the Vista OS, it got a LOT of bad press. Some of which was deserved; some wasn't. (Another story for another time). So many people opted to "downgrade" their OS to XP. If you have one of these machines, then you ought to be able to upgrade to Vista... right?

Technically, yes. If you have the proper Vista disks, and license key, and you know how to do it – not everyone does. Problem is... you can't buy Vista anymore, and finding those disks can be a real pain.

More importantly... if your machine can run Vista, it can (and should) run Windows 7. Windows 7 was originally going to be named Vista Release 2 (or something like that), but was renamed for marketing reasons to separate it from Vista's bad press. (And it isn't really Windows 7, its Windows 6.1. Vista is Windows 6.0; Windows 8 is Win 6.2. "What's in a Name?" indeed). Win 7 will run faster and more efficiently on a Vista-capable machine, as following some of the (deserved) criticism, Microsoft fixed a lot of the underlying code issues.

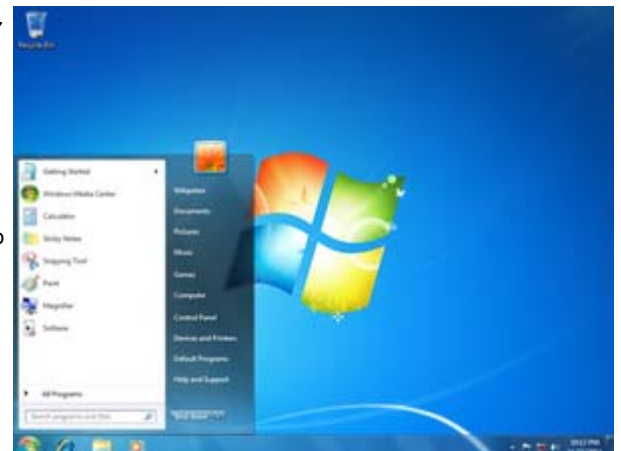
You can't buy Windows 7 from a retail store anymore, either. But you can still buy it. Many online vendors (Newegg, for one) are still selling an "OEM installer" version of Windows 7. This is a copy meant to be installed by someone on a brand new machine, not for their own use, but to sell to someone else (such as the "mom & pop" computer store down the street). However: It is a full blown version of Win 7, it does come with a license key & COA (Certificate of Authenticity), and it will work just fine.

If you decide to go this route (and there's no way to tell right now how much longer Newegg or the other online vendors will be allowed to sell this version), and you're not comfortable installing Win 7 on your own, speak to someone in the IT field who's familiar with the process.

I personally recommend, at present, running Win 7 over Win 8. There are a number of reasons for this, not all of which there's room for in this little article. The two biggest ones are these:



Windows XP

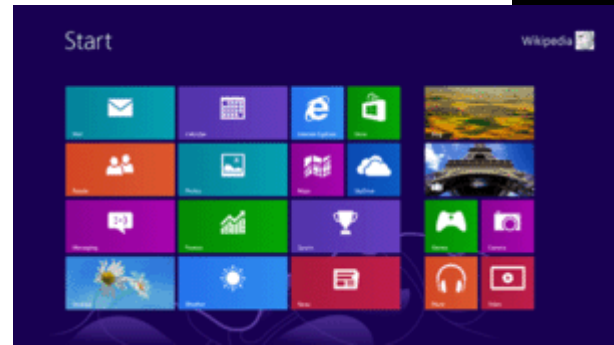


Windows 7

Continued on page 9

Windows XP continued from Page 8

1. Windows 8 is what's called a "64 bit" operating system. If you don't know what the technical difference is between that and a "32 bit" OS... well, it's a long explanation. Suffice to say, software written specifically for 32 bit OS's may not run or run correctly on a 64 bit OS. Further, Win 7 will support even older apps written for 16 bit OS's, which include many radio-oriented software apps. Microsoft dropped this backward compatibility from Win 8
2. Windows 8 has a very different user interface than Win 7, Vista, and XP. There are many features you've come to expect (like the "Start" button) that aren't included, or that must be added in via some 3rd party developer. Now, if you have a touch screen on your laptop or desktop, Win 8's "Metro" interface will act very much like a smart-phone. But if you don't have a touch screen... it's a pain. (And to this day, I owe Bill W3WH an apology, because some of the features that Microsoft showed in the Win 8 beta (test versions) weren't included in the final product... ask him sometime about the learning curve and some of the other issues.)



Windows 8

Replacing the Computer

The day will come when you simply are going to have to replace the computer. Again, it's not today, and it may not be for another year or two. But it will come. There are (as always) a lot of choices out there, in terms of hardware and software. Desktop? Tablet? Notebook? Ultrabook? Windows? Linux? Again, the options are so vast that it's not possible to give a real explanation in this short article.

For the moment though... if you decide to stay in the Windows world, with a desktop or laptop machine similar to what you now have...

Many retailers are only offering Windows 8 machines. Some do offer machines with Win 7, or a machine that can be "downgraded" to Win 7. For most XP users who do not want to face a major learning curve, this may be the better option.

Before you buy that machine... if you don't know what to look for, talk to someone in the IT field. We tend to spot the BS, excuse me, the sales hype, better than those who aren't in it... at least, those of us who know what we're doing (I'd like to think that I do...)

Should you buy a used machine? Depends on who you buy it from. I personally have had great success buying used Dell machines on eBay – from Dell Financial Services (this is the leasing arm of Dell), but that's not for everyone.

Sad to say, some places cut corners. I know of one member of WASH who bought a used laptop from a small, local computer store. This laptop came from the factory with Vista, but had been downgraded to XP. When an issue arose with the XP license, this store blamed the issue on a "virus", wiped the computer clean, and reinstalled a XP with a different license... but not the Vista license that the factory installed. The user lost a good bit of data that the store had promised to back up, but didn't do so correctly. So why didn't the store (re)install the original OS like they should have? I wish I knew. Suffice to say, that place is not on my list of recommended places to go have a laptop serviced..

What about Linux?

Linux is worth mentioning, for situations where someone's older machine is fine with XP but not with Vista or Win 7.



Linux is an "open source" free Operating System that was developed in 1991 by a gentleman named Linus Torvalds. The whole story of Linux and the various flavors of it are, again, too numerous to go into at this time.

The important thing, for now, is that Linux will run on a machine that runs XP. You just have to choose which version.

Personally, I've installed the Linux distribution software ("distro") called Ubuntu on multiple machines with great success. Ubuntu is, allegedly, currently the "most popular" desktop distribution of Linux. (No doubt that will change in time, it always does)

The Ubuntu desktop looks very much like Windows, but there are a lot of "under the hood" differences. Again, another story for another time.

Ubuntu, and many other Linux "distros", can be downloaded. Or, you can find a book at the most bookstores that includes a disk containing everything you need to install it – and the book explains a lot of what it does, how it works, and what you can do with it.

While I can not in good conscience tell an XP user to just switch – yet – it is something worth looking into. Especially if your XP machine isn't your "primary" machine, but just the one in the shack for logging and such... or you're going to buy a new machine as your primary, and make the XP box your shack computer.

Again, if you're interested in Ubuntu or another flavor of Linux, talk with someone who is familiar with the system. Weigh the pros & cons and what works best for you, and proceed accordingly.

Just keep this in mind:

All things must come to an end. The end of XP isn't here yet... just the official Microsoft support for it. For most of us, that is. (If you're willing to pay through the nose, Microsoft will provide some support... but who amongst us can afford that?)

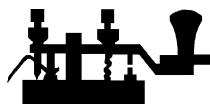
XP is not dead yet; or to put it another way, it's only mostly dead, not all dead. So don't bother going through the system looking for loose change. But, do start making plans, if you haven't already, on how to proceed.

On your timetable. Not theirs.



Ubuntu 11

Silent Keys



Matt Walsh W3JQJ, 76, Mt. Washington, March 24th, 2014

When I first moved to Pittsburgh in 1982, there was a nice lady, Mary, who lived next door to my fiancé in Crafton. Mary found out I was a ham one day, and told me her brother's best friend was a ham... and that's how I ended up meeting Matt Walsh W3JQJ. We'd been friends ever since.

Thanks Matt, for the Pirates tickets for the family, the wiring help, the dinners at Dayton, your advice, for everything you've done for me & for your other ham friends as well. You will be missed, and we are better for knowing you.

— 73, Ron Notarius W3WN

64th Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test

Headquarters, US Army MARS

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 64th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 17th, 2014, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted 10 May 2014 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (16-18 May 2014), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur cross band communications SSB voice and Morse Code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.

PART I. MILITARY-TO-AMATEUR CROSS BAND SSB & CW TEST CONTACTS.

Military-to-Amateur cross band operations will take place on the dates/times in ZULU (UTC), and frequencies listed below for each station. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some stations may not operate the entire period, depending on propagation and manning. Participating military stations will transmit on selected Military MARS frequencies and listen for amateur radio stations in the Amateur bands.

The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes. The following stations will be transmitting on MARS frequencies listed below which are provided as "Window/Dial Frequency" in kHz. Some stations will use CW to provide the opportunity to check in by Morse Code.

Participating Army stations include: WAR, AAZ, AAC, ABH, ADB & WUG-23

Participating Air Force stations include: AIR, AGA2SY, AGA4AR, AGA5SC & AGA9TR,

Participating Navy/Marine Corps stations include: NBL, NMC1, NMN, NNNØASF, NNNØCQQ, NPD, NRV, NUW, NWKJ, NWVC

(Editor's Note: Details on the specific sending & receiving frequencies and operating times for each station can be found at <http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements>)

PART II. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MESSAGE TEST VIA DIGITAL MODES.

The Secretary of Defense message will be transmitted via digital modes including RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31, MFSK and MT63 from the stations listed below, including frequencies, mode, and date/time in zulu (utc). All frequencies are listed "window/dial frequency" sound cards modes will use standard factory settings (NOTE: not all stations may necessarily operate on all the frequencies listed, depending on propagation and available equipment.)

Participating Army stations include: WAR, AAC, AAZ

Participating Air Force stations include: AGA2SY, AGA5SC, AGA9TR, AGA4AR

Participating Navy/Marine Corps stations include: NBL, NNNØASF, NNNØCQQ, NUW, NWKJ, NWVC

(Editor's Note: Details on the specific sending & receiving frequencies and operating times for each station can be found at <http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements>)

Transcripts of the RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31, MFSK and MT63 receiving test should be submitted "as received". No attempt should be made to correct possible transmission errors. Provide time, frequency and call sign of the military station copied, including name, call sign, and address (including zip code) of individual submitting the entry. Ensure this information is placed on the paper containing the test message.

Each year a large number of acceptable entries are received with insufficient information, or necessary information was not attached to the transcriptions and was separated, thereby precluding issuance of a certificate. Entries must be sent to the appropriate military address as follows:

Stations copying the Secretary of Defense Message from WAR, AAC, or AAZ:

ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION
COMMANDER NETCOM
ATTN: NETC-ATD (MARS STATION)
BLDG 90549 JIM AVENUE
FORT HUACHUCA, AZ 85613-7070

Stations copying the Secretary of Defense Message from NBL, NNNØASF, NNNØCQQ, NUW, NWKJ OR NWVC:

ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION
CHIEF, NAVY-MARINE CORPS MARS
CHEATHAM ANNEX BLDG 117
108 SANDA AVE
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185-5830

Stations copying the Secretary of Defense Message from AGA2SY, AGA5SC, AGA9TR OR AFA4AR:

ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION
38 CYRS/CHIEF, AF MARS
203W LOSEY ST, RM 1200
SCOTT AFB, IL 62225



A thoughtful Ham qualifies: '... to those that can hear me.'

So those not hearing him will know they're excused.

— Steven Hippchen KB9NGX

If you were at the Pirates Home Opener on March 31st, you may have seen a familiar face between innings, during the "Science of Baseball Quiz" segment.

Jessie "Little Miss Field Day" Notarius answered correctly & won the \$150 jacket, too! (She kept it, too, passing up "The Box of Mystery")



“Seen” At The March WASH Meeting

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Ron Notarius W3WN



ZS8C Murray Green K3BEQ

About a year ago Carson McAfee, ZR6CWI, reactivated ZS8C from Marion Island; a much sort after DXCC entity.

That was the good news; the bad news was that he did not know Morse code.

I took a chance and sent him an email asking if he would give it a try. He agreed and I sent him the basics of a DX CW exchange emphasizing that he listen to the rhythm as opposed to writing down the actual dots/dashes.

It was a learning curve and he did quite well. On 26 October 2013 @1402Z we met on 28.035 and made the CW contact. Granted it was very slow but it was his first CW QSO. He was elated; I was elated and "it was the best of times".

Following that contact Carson went on to increase his speed and work many others.

I understand that he has or will leave the Island finishing up his tour of duty and returning Johannesburg, South Africa. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the CW operators he worked to say thanks for your efforts. The challenge was there and you took it upon yourself to learn a new language that has a very long and proud history throughout the world. Good luck to you and again thank you so very much for having the courage and tenacity to increase your communication skills and provide a new CW contact to the deserving.

The following officers were elected at the annual board meeting of the NCDXF in Visalia, California, on April 5th, 2014:

- President: Tom Berson ND2T
- Vice President: Glenn Johnson WØGJ
- Secretary: Kip Edwards W6SZN
- Treasurer: Don Greenbaum N1DG
- Directors: Steve Merchant K6AW, John Miller K6MM, Glenn Rattmann K6NA, Ned Stearns AA7A, & Glenn Vinson W6OTC

In the past year we were saddened with the loss of three previous directors of NCDXF: Lee Shaklee W6BH, Jack Troster W6ISQ, (both founders of NCDXF) & Bruce Butler W6OSP.

Rusty Epps W6OAT and Ken Anderson K6TA retired from the board this year and were thanked for their many years of service.

Our scholarship funds will be directed toward supporting new DXers (age 25 or less) at CT University sessions over the next two years.

Over the last year NCDXF provided approximately \$99,000 to support DXpeditions to the rare and most difficult entities.

At the International DX Convention banquet, we were presented a generous check of \$12,000 from the Southern California DX Club.

The board is grateful for the generous contributions from the DX community, without such support, DXpeditions to the Most Wanted and hard to get to entities would not happen.

— Glenn Johnson WØGJ, Vice President, NCDXF

The ARRL is seeking candidates for the position of **Contest Branch Manager**. This individual will be responsible for all aspects of ARRL's contest program.

Applicants should have at least 5 years of experience in personnel, software, and process management in a non-profit environment and as an active Amateur Radio contesting participant.

A bachelor's degree is preferred. Details may be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/employment-opportunities>

Specific questions should be directed to Dave Patton NN1N at patton@arrl.org

73, Sean Kutzko KX9X
Media and Public Relations Manager, ARRL

World Amateur Radio Day is celebrated every April 18th, to commemorate the creation of the International Amateur Radio Union in 1925.

The theme for 2014:

Amateur Radio: Your Gateway To Wireless Communications

DX News Briefs



7QAA (that is not a typo) will be QRV 10 November through 2 December. "We're taking a different approach to the team structure and operating activities during this DXpedition, and there will be some questions in our on-line web survey to see how DXers feel about these ideas. We're assembling a large team of around 20-24 operators, which will be split into two sub-teams operating over different date-range periods.

Team One will operate only SSB and RTTY on HF 10 through 160 meters as well as 6 meters (any mode that works) for the first eleven days. Team Two will follow on for the next eleven days, operating on CW only, and running an M2 contest entry in the CQ WW CW contest for zone 37. More information at <http://www.malawidx.org/~7QAA>

VK9MT went QRT ahead of schedule. "Due to the ever worsening weather associated with an impending tropical storm, the team decided in the interest of safety to end the operation early. The last night on the island was extremely difficult. With continued heavy rain and wind, radio operations were nearly impossible. We have set sail for the Australian coast and seek a course to keep ahead of the storm that caused us to leave the reef. Expect 2.5 – 3 days of sailing prior to reaching our port destination.

While the team is disappointed, we realize that you are even more disappointed. We gave one elderly ZS amateur his last one for Top of the Honor Roll, a PP1 his Honor Roll position and many all time new ones. Based on the logs there were many band fills." – VK9MT via DX World

HC8ART is world traveler UA4WHX. Length of stay is currently unknown. QSL via UA4WHX, as directed on his QRZ.COM page — UA4WHX

J88PI will be QRV 13 – 12 April, mainly SSB from 2000 to 2300 daily. QSL via GW4DVB – DX World

5TØJL will be active as **5T1MM** during the weekend of April 19-20, 2014. This coincides with the CQ MM contest, celebrating a new Ham Radio partnership between Brazil and Mauritania. QSL via PY4WAS — DX World

A multi-national team will be QRV with multiple calls from **7P8 Lesotho** from 22 April—1 May. Calls include **7P8CF, 7P8CP, 7P8JR, 7P8MH, 7P8RJ, 7P8RL & 7P8YY** More information at <http://www.mdxc.org/lesotho2014/> — QSL via home calls or as directed by each operator — MDXC

SP5EAQ and SP5ES plan to be QRV as **ZK3E** and **ZK3Q** for 3 weeks starting 8 October, 80 – 10 meters. ZK3E will be SSB only, ZK3Q on SSB and CW. More information at ak3.sp5drh.com . QSL information to be announced – SP5DRH

YJØX will be QRV 3 to 15 October, running 2 stations on CW, RTTY & SSB. Antennas, bands, and operating times to be announced. More information at <http://yj2014.wordpress.com/> QSL via ZL3PAH – ZL3X

QSL Routes

4H1T via DU1IVT — OPDX	HC8ART via UA4WHX — HC8ART
4U1ITU via I1YRL — PY5EW	HR2WW via KD4POJ — OPDX
5H3PM via I1YRL — PY5EW	IAØMZ via IWØEFA — JA1HGY
6W7SK via F6BLP — JA1HGY	J79JG via AD8J — JA1HGY
7Q7FOC via G3MRC — JA1HGY	J88PI via GW4DVB — OPDX
9L1A via 9A2AA — JA1HGY	NH4DX via KG6DX — W8HGH
A35JF via JAØRQV — JA1HGY	OD5NJ/p via KK4OK — W3AWU
A35V via N3SL — N3SL	UAØSR via W3HNN — W3HNN
A63RI via IZ8CLM — AA5AM	VU2TS via I1YRL — PY5EW
BZ4DHI via I1YRL — PY5EW	XO2C via VE3RHE — VY2XDX
C5YK via ON6EG — JA1HGY	YJØZZ via NE7D — JA1HGY
C7A via 4U1VIC — 4U1VIC	YN2NC via AI4U — JA1HGY
CW4R via CX1AA — OPDX	ZB2CN via DJ9WH — JA1HGY
EE5T via EA5URG — EE5T	ZD8UW via MØURX — JA1HGY

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

"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

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!

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



Just in time for April 1st?

Below is a picture of what was allegedly a real ad on a NY "Craigslist" from back in 2009.

One has to wonder... is this for real, or an elaborate prank?

And if it's for real... wonder if this guy had any dehydrated water for sale as well?...

new york craigslist > westchester > electronics email this posting to a friend

Avoid scams and fraud by dealing locally! Beware any deal involving Western Union, Moneygram, wire transfer, cashier check, money order, shipping, escrow, or any promise of transaction protection/certification/guarantee. [More info](#)

7591 vacuum tubes in original boxes - \$50 (westchester)

Reply to: sale-a2um-1077822164@craigslist.org [Items when online to sale?](#)
Date: 2009-03-16, 4:10PM EDT

Hi i have 8 7591 vacuum tubes that were new old stock, i tested these in a scott amplifier and worked well. I carefully removed the glass on each tube to clean both sides as all the tops had silver inside blocking view of tubes light now the tubes have no glass but may still work. asking 50.00 each.



(Illustration courtesy of the KB7RGG web site on QSL.NET)

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 4th, 2014 — The FCC has taken the opening steps on its proposal ([ET Docket 13-49](#)) to make available another 195 MHz of spectrum at 5 GHz for Part 15 unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices. U-NII devices use "wideband digital modulation techniques to provide a wide array of high data rate mobile and fixed communications for individuals, businesses, and institutions," the FCC has explained. In a [First Report and Order](#) in the proceeding released on April 1st, the Commission affirmed that Amateur Radio is entitled to protection from interference by such unlicensed devices.

"The Amateur Service is an allocated service entitled to interference protection within the 5 GHz spectrum," the FCC said, "whereas U-NII devices operate under our Part 15 rules." Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation at 5.65-5.925 GHz, including an Amateur Satellite Service uplink allocation of 5.65-5.67 GHz and a downlink allocation of 5.83-5.85 GHz.

In the *R&O* the FCC, among other things, extended the upper edge of the 5.725-5.825 GHz band to 5.85 GHz and consolidated the Part 15 rules "applicable to all digitally modulated devices operating across this 125 megahertz of spectrum to ensure that all such devices comply with U-NII requirements intended to protect authorized users from harmful interference," the FCC said. The Commission did not address the use of U-NII devices in the 5.35-5.47 GHz and 5.85-5.925 GHz bands, pending additional technical analyses of those bands.

The FCC was obligated by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (PL 112-96) to begin a proceeding to amend its Part 15 rules to allow unlicensed U-NII devices to operate in the 5.35-5.47 GHz bands.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler called the *R&O* "a big win for consumers" that will offer much-needed relief to growing congestion on WiFi networks. "At the same time," Wheeler continued, "it moves us another step closer to ending the analog-era debate of licensed vs unlicensed spectrum. In 2014, licensed and unlicensed spectrum are more complementary than competitive. They are less oil and vinegar, and more peanut butter and jelly."

The FCC *R&O* turned away an ARRL suggestion that it require U-NII devices employ dynamic frequency selection (DFS) and transmit power control (TPC) throughout the 5.650-5.925 GHz segment to minimize harmful interference to Amateur Radio operations in the shared spectrum.

"ARRL's proposal to require DFS and TPC mitigation techniques for U-NII-3 devices is not necessary, would be overly burdensome, and is not based on a demonstrated need," the FCC *R&O* said. "We believe that the Amateurs have adequate access to spectrum necessary in this band, and we decline to extend the Amateur Radio allocation downwards to overlap the rest of the U-NII spectrum, as HamWAN proposes, as this request is beyond the scope of this proceeding."

Bart Kus, AE7SJ, filed comments in the proceeding on behalf of [HamWAN](#) in the Greater Seattle Area, which describes itself as "a modern multi-megabit IP-based digital network for Amateur Radio use."

In 1999, the Commission allocated 5.85-5.925 GHz for direct vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-roadside, or "Dedicated Short Range Communications" (DSRC). Amateurs may continue to operate in this segment, but only to the extent that they do not interfere with DSRC operations. In support of its argument that the introduction of U-NII into this segment would be premature, the ARRL has observed that "a U-NII overlay at the present time requires a good deal of compatibility analysis, none of which has been completed to date."

In its *R&O*, the Commission said that cable operators and associations "support the Commission's proposal to add the 5.825-5.85 GHz segment of the U-NII-3 band to support devices that use higher data rates." It noted, however, that automotive and transportation-related groups expressed concern that "devices operating in the U-NII-3 band would place U-NII unwanted emissions into frequency bands used by Dedicated Short Range Communication (DSRC) Systems at levels that may cause harmful interference."

In its [comments](#) last May, the League pointed out that there is "no legislative obligation" to make the 5.85-5.925 GHz band available for U-NII use. The ARRL traced a history of "a continuing series of overlays" to which the 5 GHz band has been subjected over the past 16 years, progressively reducing the utility of the amateur allocation there. And the League asserted that "a decision in the near term with respect to the addition of U-NII devices to the 5.85-5.925 GHz band would be premature," a conclusion the FCC now has reached.

"Chairman Wheeler noted the need for careful study of technical analyses prior to expanding unlicensed access into the 5.85-5.925 GHz band," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said. "We can only hope that he will insist on this study being done before the other shoe drops in this proceeding."

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



42nd Annual Two Rivers ARC Hamfest

Sunday, April 27th, 2014 8 AM — 2 PM

Boston Spectrum, 6001 Smithfield Street, Boston PA 15135

Admission \$5.00

Mobile Check-In on WA3PBD/R 146.730 & 146.52 MHz Simplex

Amateur Testing Available — veteam@trarc.com or 412-203-2015

1st Prize: Yaesu FT-857D HF / 6 M / 2 M / 70 cm Transceiver

2nd Prize: Yaesu FT-9000R 2 M / 70 cm Transceiver

3rd Prize: MFJ-259C HV/VHF Antenna Analyzer

Computer Prize, 11:00 AM Prize, Other Prizes To Be Announced

For more information, Contact the Two Rivers ARC, PO Box 225, Greenock PA 15047-0225 <http://www.trarc.net>

"Big Boom" Ahead in Amateur Radio Joe Falcone N8TI courtesy of www.eham.net

It is all demographics. Every day, 10,000 Baby Boomers are reaching the age of 65. This has been going on for about three years. As a result, a larger and larger segment of the general population is going to start retiring and have more time on their hands.

I believe that licensed Amateur Radio operators are well represented in the 76 million Baby Boomers. I predict that as these operators retire, they will tend to spend more time on the radio. I know that since my son went away to college, I am spending more time on the radio, even though I still work full time. I simply have more time to engage in my hobbies, one of which is Ham Radio.

One of the "problems" with the health of Amateur Radio is that it is not attracting young people. The average age of Hams is about 60 according to the various sources you find on the web. The Hobby has had that "graying" problem for a while now and it is somewhat rare to have a QSO with someone under thirty. As a result, most of the Ham Radio operators now are older. Well, in the long run, this could well be a problem. But, in the shorter run, say the next 20 years, these Hams, as they retire, are going to have much more time to engage in their hobby and that should mean they are going to get on the air more.

The baby boomers have changed American as they have aged. As the baby boomer Amateur Radio operators age there is no reason to expect that they will not spend more time on the radio.

There should be a big increase in Amateur Radio activity in the coming years.

Is Courtesy "DXtinct?" Steve Miller W6SDM courtesy of www.eham.net

Did courtesy go the same way as the vacuum tube? I'm afraid the answer is yes when it comes to some of our recent DX pile-ups.

Okay, I recognize that working a rare DX pile-up is competitive. That's part of what makes it fun. However, it's radio sport, not blood sport. When the insults and intentional QRM are so overwhelming that the DX operator just hits the switch and goes QRT, then it's time to really give some thought to what our hobby has become.

On the FT52M Amsterdam Island DXpedition, I believe that I witnessed the poorest display of radio etiquette that I've seen since I started out over 40 years ago. It was bad enough that there were hundreds of stations on calling within about a 10 KHz span, many of them on top of each other. Quite often one station transmits on top another because they don't hear the other station – but I can hear them both. That happens and it's sometimes unintentional.

What is intentional is the QRM from the self-appointed "DX Cops" whose constant "Up, Up, Up, or LID, or even FU" makes it impossible to hear the DX even when he's 10 over. Who are these clowns anyway and why do they seem to follow each DX station like parasitic crustaceans following a shark through the water. They seem to lay in wait for some errant operator to send his call on the DX operating frequency and then they cut loose with a ten second torrent of "Up, Up, Up".

The result is that even if you were called by the DX, you wouldn't know it because you couldn't hear through the collective scolding from DX Cops. Imagine spending hours of repetitive calling only to miss the acknowledgement because some inconsiderate jerk derives pleasure from pointing out the transgression, albeit slight and unintentional, of another operator with a barrage of "UPs".

Ironically, there is much more interference caused by the anonymous guardians of the DX frequency than the errant operator who may stray there. If you work DX, sooner or later you're going to set up the spit after carefully looking for an open frequency in the pile-up only to forget to switch transmit to the second VFO. It happens, and when it does, it's embarrassing. A simple two character reminder that lasts under 100 milliseconds will remedy the situation.

What I heard was the multiple UPs from multiple operators. Since retribution was in order, the FUs, LIDs, and other insults started to fly. Then someone started tuning on the DX frequency. I got up, refilled my drink, assured my XYL that yes, I was still alive in there, and came back ten minutes later to hear the same thing going on. Finally, I heard a QRT from the DX and he pulled the switch.

What's really sad is that long after the DX had departed the QRM continued. That's telling, isn't it?

Tens of thousands of dollars are spent on DXpeditions. Operators spend their time traveling to remote parts of the world where a square meal and a hot shower is rare commodity. They do this so that the rest of us, who enjoy making a 15-second contact with an otherwise uninhabited island in the Indian Ocean can pin a card on the wall and say they've worked it. Okay, so perhaps they don't all operate their stations the way the armchair operator making the critique would, but that doesn't call for a "Poor Op" comment or questions relative to his parentage posted on the spotter networks.

Okay, so it's a 15-second, "5nn, TU" contact. Nevertheless, even after confirming over 250 countries, I still get a thrill, whether it's phone or CW, when I hear my call come back from the DX. It helps make the many thousands of dollars I've spent on this hobby worth the money (Hopefully the XYL isn't reading this because I've told her it's only a few hundred).

I really hope that the idiots out there don't spoil the thrill of ham radio DX for coming generations. I realize that the offenders probably aren't reading this article, and even if they are, it's unlikely to influence their behavior. About the only thing the rest of us can do proactively is just follow good operating procedure, listen carefully, and double check your transmitting frequency before hitting the key.

Perhaps if there's nothing to "UP" about, the DX cops will find a new method of personal fulfillment that doesn't involve other people – like stamp collecting.



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: _____



A Few More Pictures from A Visit To W1AW

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Glen Roberts KE7FD



Glen KE7FD, smiling & catching his breath at W1ØØAW



Skip, one of the volunteer tour guides



This might have been Hiram Percy Maxim's desk...



The front of ARRL Headquarters' main building

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

www.washarc.org

