





### Next Monthly Meeting: July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The next meeting of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. will be on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 2014, at the King's Family Restaurant, 155 McMurray Road, Upper St. Clair (map on the back page), starting at 7:00 PM. (Coffee at 6:30 PM)

Field Day 2014 wrap-up, the Vintage Grand Prix, summer Picnic, Pennsylvania QSO Party, the ongoing Arduino & Raspberry Pi Workshop(s), and other plans for the rest of the year will be amongst the topics. See you there!

Top: The WASH Tower Trailer, loaded with antennas, being raised Cover Photos:

Bottom: WASH Field Day in full swing, early Saturday afternoon. More Field Day 2014 photos inside! Photos courtesy of & Copyright 2014 Fred Beighley KB3DCO

### WASH 2014 OFFICERS

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

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

N3SH Trustee WA3SH Trustee NP2SH Trustee N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager Ron Notarius W3WN NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager VE Team Liaison Webmaster Asst. Webmaster Quartermaster WASH FM Net Manager WASHFest 2015 Committee

Activities & Operating Events Ways & Means WASH 2M Contest Chair Field Day 2014 Coordinators

### Larry Comden K3VX Rich Danko N3SBF Paul Jordan NP2JF

Carl Schroeder K9CS Ron Notarius W3WN Sean Sleeman N3NWR Ben Williams KB3ERQ Harold Rosenberger K3HCR Glen Roberts KE7FD Carol Danko KB3GMN. Chairman Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair Rick Bell KB3IAC Carol Danko KB3GMN Ron Notarius W3WN Larry Comden K3VX **Rick Bell KB3IAC** 

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

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (–)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF "The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner ™") is the Official Newsletter of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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newsletter at n3sh dot org or w3wn at arrl dot net e-mail:

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

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters 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

		ASTI AIIIaleul Ka		ID NEV	S DI IEIS		
Next W	ASH VE <sup>-</sup>	Test July 17 <sup>th</sup>			ol's Com		
7:00 PM, at <b>WPXI</b>	TV Community F on the 146.955 MHz	<b>hursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014,</b> <b>Com,</b> 4145 Evergreen Road, and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All	food was great the company and 18 guests	at, contacts we was the best. s. There are a	est Field Day. There a lot of fun ar We had 20 mem lot of pictures or www.n3sh.org).	nd nbers	
ensure that we have te	ests and other material the test session, pleas 6723 or E-Mail: <u>w3wn a</u>	-	and our guest attend our Jul compliments	s. In fact som y meeting . S were that we a other . I replie	ports from memb le of our guests n ome of the all got along so w d that is because	vell	ds and enjoy
Picture ID or other suit Pen / Pencil / Calculate	able identification (2 fo	orms of ID required)	I am already fox hunt or wh		rd to our next fur ecide.	nction . which m	ay be a picnic,
Original FCC license p Original CSCE plus a c Check or Cash in the a	copy of CSCE (if upgra	ading)	Looking forwa Restaurant	ard to seeing e	everyone at our r	next meeting at	Kings Family
	lates: Thursday, July Thursday, Oct	,		Pre	sident, Wireless /	Association of S	anko KB3GMN South Hills, Inc. SSH / NP2SH/b
John	adopted a "split squa Canonsburg; and oth included K3HCR, N3	marked the very beginning of Field D d", with some members meeting as er members meeting at the Eat 'N P NWR, and W3WN. The Canonsburg (and our apologies if anyone was m	usual at Suzie B ark on Route 88 g contingent inclu	s's, Route 910 near the entra	at the intersection ance to South Parl	n of Route 519 a k. The South Pa	t US 19 in ark contingent
Rodgers		urse, one of the many topics of conve	,	nately, we don	't have complete	notes on what el	se was said.
N3M5E has	Our next gathering w	ill be on Saturday, July 26 <sup>th</sup> , back at ual" tables will be reserved, but <u>plea</u>	"full strength" at	Suzie B's, Ro	oute 910 at the inte		
announced	•	14 was fantastic. Perfect? No, but t				inside	
that he will	-	test session is coming up fast, on .					neral pre-
not seek re-	registered. We could	use another VE or two to help out,	so if you're availa	able, please le	t W3WN know.		
election to another term as ARRL WPa	July meeting will be before, including ear	ard, and was mentioned at the meeti <b>held at King's Family Restaurant</b> ier this year when inclement weather are more than welcome to come a	, 155 McMurray r closed the chur	Road, Upper S ch. We have	St. Clair. (We've r the "back room" r	met there from ti eserved again; n	me to time
Section Manager, nor will he accept	some logistical issue	y had to <b>pull out</b> of the <b>2014 K2M</b> o s arose that could not be resolved wi ticipating in the operation this year.	ith the event org	anizers. Our r	egrets to everyon	e in & out of the	
a nomination	Preliminary	Results, WASH Field I	Day 2014				
for re-	WA3SH – 2A – W	'PA	_		SHNe <sup>®</sup>	1 2014 NCS	Schodulo
election in	CW Station	QRP Operation				1	Schedule
the upcoming		Solar Powered		07/06/2014	Glen KE7FD	09/14/2014	tba
election.		308 Total CW Contacts		07/13/2014	Larry K3VX	09/21/2014	tba
John wishes	Digital Station	QRP Operation		07/20/2014	Bob AB3ED	09/28/2014	tba
to spend more time		Battery Powered 47 Total Digital Contacts			Harold K3HCR	10/05/2014	tba
with his	<u>N3SH – 1A – WP</u>	-					
family in the		100 Watt Operation Maximum	า	08/03/2014	Sean N3NWR	10/12/2014	tba
upcoming		Battery Powered		08/10/2014	Carol KB3GMN	10/19/2014	tba
months. along	Satellite Station	205 Total Voice (SSB) Contacts Low Power Operation (5 to 10 v	watte)	08/17/2014	Fred KB3DCO	10/26/2014	tba
with more	Satemice Station	Battery/Generator Powered	wallsj	08/24/2014	tba	11/02/2014	tba
operating		19 Total contacts (1 CW, 18 Voi	ce)				
time.		— 73, Larry Comden K3VX &Ric		08/31/2014	tba	11/09/2014	tba
		WASH Field Day 2014 Committ	tee Chairmen	09/07/2014	tba	11/16/2014	tba
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Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2014 Today ! Membership Application on Page 15!

### Minutes, June 12th Meeting

Ben Williams KB3ERQ, Vice President / Secretary, WASH

- Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours. There were 26 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 Dave N3IDH, passed unanimously.

#### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on he bank account was read & accepted. Insurance payment will be made shortly.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No report

VE (W3WN): Next VEC session July 11th at WPXI. VE's needed!

#### Repeaters (N3FB): Repeating.

- WASHNet (KE7FD): Glen needs to add more slots in the schedule. Also he reminds us to please check the schedule on line so you aren't surprised .
- Contests(K3VX): Contest Calendar is In the news letter. This weekend is the ARRL VHF contest. This contest using grid squares a the multiplier and we live by the intersection of 4 of them.

#### WASHFest 2015 (KB3GMN, W3WH): No report

#### Field Day 2014 (K3VX, KB3IAC):

- Larry: Field Day will be at Outlook Grove at South Park. Setup starts at 9 AM Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Decisions to be made on the spot: What goes on the tower trailer?
- **Rick:** We would like to attempt some satellite contacts, but not sure if there will be time to setup the station. This is only worth preparing for if people are going to put in the operating time to makes some satellite contacts. They take some work.

Everything including laptops is going to be running from battery power. The radio you bring needs to be able to accept the Anderson power poles type connectors. The entire network that we will setup will be running off DC.

We might run the digital station and CW on battery power with a solar panel!

Larry: The picnic tables in the pavilion are kind of rough. We might want to bring some plywood or card board to create a level operation position.

Bill says "It will be a good time!"

Public Service (N3RDV): No report.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President's Report (KB3GMN):

- We were shown pictures of a jacket with your call on one side, and the club name and call on the other side of the front. Cost is \$40.00
- This is the last meeting at Crossroads church. Will meet at Kings on McMurray road for the next meeting.
- Carol talked to a reporter from the Post Gazette about Field Day. They may put it into the paper and may actually show up at Field Day.

Old Business: None.

#### New Business: None

Good of the order: Bill is doing K2M for the13 colonies event again this year. Last year all the activity was at Bill's house. This year, we are going to setup a schedule where people can operate from their own shacks. It will have 3 time periods. Morning, afternoon, and evening slots. If we have to many people for a slot, we can break it down by bands. It starts on the midnight Tuesday the 1st of July until July 6th.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Ron W3WN and carried.

#### Meeting adjourned at 19:44 hours.

#### Editor's Notes:

- The Post Gazette article ran in the PG South "Xtra" edition on June 19<sup>th</sup>. It can be found online at <u>http://www.post-gazette.com/local/</u> <u>south/2014/06/19/SWIRELESS0619/stories/201406190040</u>
- 2) Subsequent to the meeting, Bill W3WH had to withdraw as one of the K2M stations, of the 2014 13 Colonies Special Event.

## WASH Spotlight: <mark>Visitors</mark>



Glen KE7FD (center) greeting new ham Lia KC3DDK (left), and Mike Cook (right), during **WASH** Field Day 2014 at Outlook Grove, South Park Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Sean Sleeman N3NWR

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** 

### 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 AB3EN AB3NM AB3PJ AC4KU AE3DL KØLIN K3AIR K3GW K3HCR K3GW K3HCR K3JDS K3LGM K3SGT K3VX KA3ANU	KB3GMN KB3GMU KB3IAC KB3IVX KB3JHR KB3PSB KB3YCX KB3YKL KC3ANX KC3BQI KC4WTT KE7FD KJ3D N1NCZ	N3IDH N3NWR N3OVO N3RDV N3RHT N3SBF W3LE W3RWS W3VFA W3VFA W3WH W3WN W4CKR WB4GCS Darryn Sleeman	WASH FL KA3UPY/M W4ZE WASH GA K3OL KB3IJX WASH ID N3ZNI WASH NE NØPEU WASH OR NØVLR NØVPV KB3NVL KB3NVL	WASH OH N8DPW WASH SC N3RNX WASH TN KE3XB N3YPB WASH TX K3LGM Jane Wagner WASH VI NP2JF	Silent Keys AB3KA K3EED K3LIE KA3NMG KB3ENX KB3FNM KB3FQT N3FZ N3FZ N3FKQ N3KEH N3OBD N3SKR
KA3RXY KA3TWI KB3DCO KB3ERQ	N2QIV N3BPB N3DFK N3FB	If your call sl isn't, please			N3SKK N3SRC N3ZEL N3XFE W3ZLK

**WA3JPP** 

Through July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 List complied by Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

## 2014 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

July 10 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	@ Kings, McMurray Road
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VE Exams	Community Room, WPXI—TV 11
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	North Hills ARC Hamfest	http://www.nharc.org
July 19 <sup>th</sup> — 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix	http://www.pvgp.org
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	http://www.k3smt.org/hamfest/
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	WPRC Meeting, Punxsutawney	http://www.wprcinfo.org
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	ТВА
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Skyview RS Swap'n'Shop	http://www.skyviewradio.net/
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	BCARA Swapfest 2014	http://www.w3udx.org/Hamfest.htm
September 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL September VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	ТВА
October 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VE Exams	Community Room, WPXI—TV 11
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	WPRC Meeting, Altoona	http://www.wprcinfo.org
October 20 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL School Club Roundup	http://www.arrl.org
October 25 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	http://www.cqww.com
November 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	WACOM 2014 Hamfest	http://wacomarc.org
November 8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL EME Contest	http://www.arrl.org
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	ТВА
November 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	http://www.arrl.org
November 29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest CW	http://www.cqww.com
December 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL EME Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org

### Field Day Network Setup @ WB4GCS Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Jim Sanford WB4GCS



### WASH Field Day 2014

Photos courtesy of & Copyright 2014 Miles Matty KW3LO



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## WASH Field Day 2014

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Fred Beighley KB3DCO



Page 8

### SATURDAY MORNING STATION SETUP

### Thoughts On 2014 WASH Field Day

Bill Hill W3WH

- 72. Bill / W3WH



#### Today is the Fourth of July. It's it's been about a week since Field Day, which is enough time to review the event in your head and come to some conclusions. All in all I think it was a wonderful weekend of food fellowship and ham radio I have to admit that before the first CW QSO was made I felt little apprehensive and selfish, that I'm the one who really pushed for QRP operations, and if they didn't work out how bad I would've felt.

As it turned out the CW operation was relatively successful. We really had very few stations to didn't hear us at all even though more than just a few asked for a "fill" on our call sign. That's not a rare occurrence when your call ends in SH which of course is seven dits in a row and unless you have sent it perfectly and you have a decent signal it's hard for the guy on the other end to copy it accurately. Larry K3VX and I agree that if (when?) we do another QRP operation will do it with a different callsign mostly to help the receiving station here us more easily.

Closely spaced antennas as usual resulted in some interference from each other, but I didn't find that it prevented us from operating. I wonder how others felt.

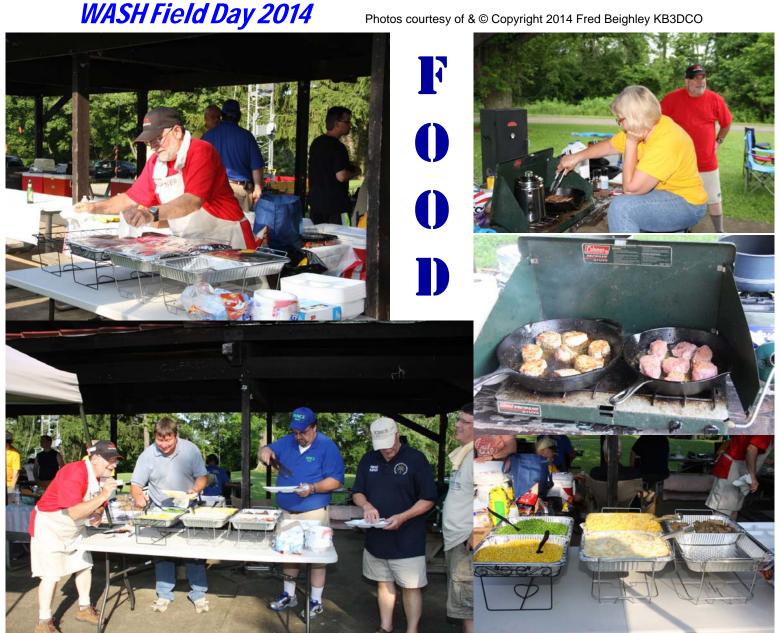
I feel that the site was outstanding, the food better than outstanding Thanks to all the cooks for a superb job and it was good to see lots of visitors interested in field day if I recall we had 38 or 39 club members and visitors visit the site over the weekend. Thanks to everyone who spent many hours prior to the event getting their part of the "show" ready.

When you come upon an operation like we had at the Outlook Grove you're really only seeing the tip of the iceberg. Many people including but not limited to Rick, Jan, Carol, Larry, Jim, Frank and I invested quite a few hours in planning and preparing.

I took a look at last year's Field Day results. It appears that had we done what we did this year in 2013 in the to2AB battery category, we would've ended up fifth in the country. Wow! Anyway it's not really about the score it's about people and our hobby and having a good time with both

Thanks to everyone who made field day a thoroughly pleasant event for me and I hope for everyone.

Photos courtesy of & Copyright 2014 Fred Beighley KB3DCO



Page 10

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Fred Beighley KB3DCO



### WASH Field Day 2014

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Sean Sleeman N3NWR



### WASH Field Day 2014

Photos courtesy of & Copyright 2014 Sean Sleeman N3NWR





THANK YOU to everyone, member or not, who stopped by and participated in a very fun & successful **WASH** Field Day 2014:

Carol KB3GMN **Richie N3SBF** Don AB3DL **Rich N1NCZ** Todd W8LEV Ron W3WN Fred KB3DCO Harold K3HCR Mark N3RDV Sean N3NWR, with Amy, Darryn, Luke & Jakob **Rick KB3IAC** Jan KB3IVX Ken NN3F Larry K3VX Bill W3WH

Gary KB3YCX & Marie Eric K3SGT Jim WB4GCS Frank N3FB Lori KB3GMU Ben KB3ERQ Lia KC3DDK & Mike Cook Paul AB3PJ Miles KW3LO Dan KV9N Ron KB3YEE Bob AD3Q & Colleen John KB3VHT Sam KB3ZNZ Kevin KB3WZT Patty & Gage



(Our apologies if anyone who participated was accidentally left off of this list! Please let us know so that we can correct the record!



As some of you are aware at Field Day there was enough of a problem with our digital setup that we didn't start making contacts for awhile. In retrospect it occurs to me that if we had simply used the SSB rig to listen (attenuated) to the digital signal, we would have heard the distortion and fixed it sooner. Doh! Next year!

- 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD

...and reinforces the point about not doing things for the first time in the field. This is why I considered the effort prior to set up the computers and NAS for logging in advance to be so valuable. Despite the simplicity that Dave's Raspberry PI NAS project brought, there were still issues to solve that day at my place. Doing so prevented the time being wasted on site.

Similarly, my inability to set up the satellite system (radio/computer) before the event is why I was so nervous about the effort. Fortunately, Frank & Rick prevailed upon me, so I agreed to give it a shot -- not really expecting to succeed. At the site, they did all the hard work, so I could get radio/computer set up. We got it all working at the end of the first satellite pass, so did not make any contacts. Fortunately, as many of you saw, after that, we did pretty well -better than I'd have expected WITH time to set things up in advance. Rick & Frank, and all those who assisted them, get the credit for that.

My take-away is that the value of planning and testing up front is affirmed -- again.

I recommend that we spend some time at the next meeting (if not sooner!) capturing lessons learned, and current thinking about what we want to do/do differently next year. Then we can dust that off when the planning starts.

Only things I would add:

- (1) Rick & Jan did a FANTASTIC job with food an many other things.
- Really appreciated Frank & Rick jumping in to the satellite setup, allowing me to focus on radio and computer programming I'd not been ale to do. Great (2) stress relief, and we made a bunch of contacts.

I would hope that next year, some of those who watched me make satellite contacts will be able to make their own.

- (4)This means we need to plan sooner, which I welcome.
- (5) Learned the other day that WACOM had solar arrays and inverters, and the latter created so much noise they had to be shut down. Something to consider next year ...
- (6)There was talk last year about participating in the EME contest in the fall. Too late. We should be discussing NOW whether or not we want to give it a shot, and then begin the project plan.
- Patti was disappointed that her chili did not get consumed overnight
- -- oh. well. weather IS.

For whatever my opinion is worth . . . .

- 73, J im Sanford WB4GCS

- 73, Harold Rosenberg K3HCR.

- 73, Bill Hill W3WH

I learned that we should have been more aware of our antenna situation on SSB. We operated (tried) for two hours before we realized we had a badly mismatched antenna. We should have been more flexible in switching bands and/or antennas in order to get more contacts.

In hindsight, we probably could have had a second SSB station on the air as a result of all the guests and visitors we had.

Bottom line: best Field Day I have ever been to.

I learned that QRP is viable but it would help if the call is easier to copy than the "SH" suffix.

I learned much the same lesson on phone that the digital folks learned. Our audio was over driven early in the day. Either start a little low and build or test a little more prior to start and get some signal reports. - 73. Sean Sleeman N3NWR

I'm guilty of doing this: Not checking my gear out using a check-list prior to packing up. The digital station was slow to get on the air simply because a setting was missed somewhere before going on the air. Someone suggested using the SSB station to listen to the digital station before 2:00, and in fact I think this is allowed as part of set up. As it was we missed the first couple of hours of making contacts. In fact, later in the evening another ham came by to tell us our audio signal was over driven so we again made adjustments. — 73. Glen Roberts KE7FD

And now, some anonymous comments...

- Attempting QRP during Field Day is indeed a challenge. The intermod seemed better though.
- We had more ham and non-ham visitors than I can remember in recent years.
- We could probably do more to get a new team at the event; would be nice to get our 15 minutes of fame to draw more members.
- Test antennas in advance. Assign an antenna to each group; let them determine how to put it up and use it for all their operations. If we use the same site next year, put an antenna off in the other direction across the road but high above so it wouldn't get snagged by big trucks. We could have had another station operating.



RADIO

RECEIVER

TRANSMITTER

AZQ

UR

WHEN

### It's In The Mail Eric P. Nichols KL7AJ courtesy of <u>www.eham.net</u>

"Eeny-meeny-miney-moe.... Zero beat my radio.... If I am not loud and clear... Listen with your other ear. WL7AI fer ID."

"Sounds okay now, OM. Like you say, probably just a little R.F. in the mikeyfone. KL7AJ, just for the halibut."

"Roger. Hey, while I've gotcha there, can you listen up and down a few and see if I've got any ker-splatter? I'm driving this thing pretty hard, and my sillyscope is dead."

"Sure. Give me a long count."

"One two, skip in my loo, three four, shut the door, five six, pick up chicks, seven eight, lay them straight, nine ten...er....umm...I forgot the rest....WL7AI out." "Clean as a hound's tooth. El Joe. Nuthin' to worry about."

"Cool. Well since I'm aimed right down your gizzard, I imagine I won't be bothering anyone else either. So are you ready for SS?"

"Dang, is it November already??!!"

"Yeah, it started just after October got finished. Did the same last year too, I believe."

"Hmm. Well the rotatorator still rotatorates, and nothing seems to be spewing out too much smoke, so I guess I'm pretty much set."

"Care to collaborate this year? Might have a better chance of showing up in the ratings. Haven't operated multi in ages, anyway."

"Sure! Sounds like a slick idea. Your shack or mine?"

"Why not scoot your boots over here? The XYL is going to some quilting bee needle twiddling conference of some sort that weekend. We can bring over the dancing girls. Maggie sez it's okay as long as they don't smoke."

"Ahh. Are the dancing girls licensed? For ham radio, I mean."

"No, but they can keep the logs for us. I think one of them can even read."

"Great. Sounds like a plan then. Need anything from ye olde junque box here?"

"We'll shake things down early afternoon, and we'll find out. I think I'm pretty well set. You can use the S-line rigs...they've been lonely lately. And the quad. I think I'll hang out on the low bands."

"Extra cool! Well, El Joe, I'm gonna grab the last few minutes of ten meters before it takes a dive. See ya Friday I guess!"

"Alrighty then. Yack atcha soon. 73, OM. I'll start clearing off a bench or two right away. Have a good one. KL7AJ, from WL7AI listening out."

"73, El Joe. WL7AI, KL7AJ clear."

El Joe opened the cooler parked below the breaker box. "Name your vice."

I peered into the cooler and selected a can of Jolt that was interspersed with a variety of 807s. "I'd better at least *start off* with some caffeine. We'll see how it goes as the night wears on."

El Joe grabbed an 807. "Ahh. Good thinking, E. I'll drink and you operate." He nodded toward the operating position. "I cleared off thirty years of literature and crud so you could find a place to park your elbows. Found one of the XYLs buried under there too...can't remember which number."

"Always the thoughtful one, El Joe. No wonder so many women wanted to marry you."

"Yeah. The branding iron was getting pretty well worn out by the time Maggie came around. I think I'll keep this one though. Had Maggie almost twelve years, imagine that!"

"Imagine that," I repeated, rolling my eyes. I made my way over to the throne set before the S-line rigs.

"Still remember how to use those?" EI Joe queried.

"Oh sure. Just like riding a tricycle."

"You may need to prop open the lid a bit on that 32S after we get cranking. They drift a tad less that way, as you may recollect."

"I recollect," I said, perhaps a bit wistfully.

"How are you with these newfangled computer things? You can use them just like a typewriter. I got a couple of them that you can use to type logs without using any paper at all. Imagine that! I got paper logs you can scribble on with a pencil too if you need them."

"Probably wouldn't hurt to have both...just in case the dancing ladies don't show up," I suggested.

"Good enough. Well, we've got about three hours till contest...feel free to just do some ragchewing or DXing or whatever kind of foreplay before then. Get the S-line all stable and such before we go on. By the way, the spare 32s can go on the air in a jiff; just flip that coax switch. All the control lines and such are already wired up. Just in case we smoke the main one, of course. Don't have a spare afterburner though. Hope you're okay with that lollipop mike. If you want something else, I have some newfangled mics you can use."

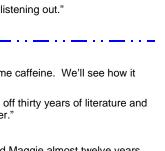
"Lollipops are fine," I said. "Might be bad luck to use an S-line with anything else, anyway."

"Hah! Yeah, you're probably right!" El Joe agreed.

I settled into the cockpit, exercised all the bandswitches and changeover relays, spun the rotator, and got the lay of the land. Al's QTH was a little bit quieter than mine...or he just had better antennas. It looked like 10 meters might cooperate for at least part of the 'stakes...but if not, we still had 5 more bands to choose from. I peered over at El Joe's station and saw he was tuned up on 160; I presumed he was going to work from the bottom up. Between us both, we could put a squeeze play on all that great contest fodder.

After an hour or so of pre-contest on-the-air well-wishing, I felt the top of the 32S cabinet. I'd forgotten just how hot those rigs ran! I propped open the hood, as EI Joe had suggested, and peered inside, just to remind myself of what the innards looked like. And then I noticed the half-inch stack of cards wedged between the right edge of the chassis and the cabinet wall. At first I thought it might have been some kind of shim or something. I pried the stack of cards out from their resting place.

They were QSL cards...about 75 of them. All bearing the Call K7PGK...all signed and filled out....bearing the date of November 15, 1964. And each with a 4 cent stamp affixed.





### It's In The Mail

Continued from Page 14

"Sure .... you're talking to 'im. That was my call before I came to Alaska."

I handed the stack of cards to him. "Um...I think you'd better look at this."

El Joe took the stack of cards, raising a bushy eyebrow. "Where the f-f-flapdoodle did you find these?!"

"They were inside the 32S. Stuck beside the chassis."

El Joe pondered the ceiling for a moment. "Ho-lee Frijole! I remember now! I'd brought the 32 S over to MG's shack for the Sixty-Four Sweep Stakes. Stuck the cards in there cuz I didn't have a briefcase. Brought er' back home and forgot about them. Man, MG's been a Silent Key for 40 years now!"

"I imagine most of the ops there are Silent Keys by now too!"

"Well, better late than never. Guess I'd better mail these."

"I don't think they'd get very far with four cents, El Joe! By the way, why didn't you use the Buro back then?"

"Well...me 'n the League had a bit of a falling out about then. I did it just for spite."

"Ahh. Well that worked well, didn't it?" I taunted.

"Hee! Yeah. Well, tell ya what. I always hate unfinished business. I've got a big old roll of them newfangled "forever" stamps in that cubbard on yer left. Never sure why they're called forever stamps since I have to keep buyin' 'em. But why don't ya re-stamp them all for me and we'll send em' out. See what happens. It's only been fifty years."

"Sure, why not," I agreed. "Maybe someone's been waiting for his card. Might be fun to find out."

One by one, I pasted the new stamps on the ancient cards, seeing if there were any calls I recognized. After about forty five cards, I spotted an oddly familiar callsign, WN6TEE. My own callsign before I myself had headed to the Last Frontier.

"Well, I think I can save you ONE forever stamp," I sputtered. "Like you said....better late than never."



## **Amateur Radio Operators Needed** for the 2014 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix





The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is seeking Amateur Radio operators to work the Flag & Safety corners, and provide race communications for the 2014 PVGP events.

This year, Amateur Radio Operators are needed for these race weekends:

The Historic Race Weekend on July 12  $^{\rm th}$  - 13  $^{\rm th}$  , at Pitt Race (formerly BeaverRun

Motorsports Complex) in Beaver Falls, featuring Muscle Cars & European Racers from the 60's & 70's,

The Vintage Race Weekend on July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, in Schenley Park in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, featuring sports cars from the early days of automobiles through

the 1950's.

For More Information or to Volunteer, please call Corky Bennet N3MJP at (724) 217-5458





### West Coast DX Bulletin

#### Northern California DX Club

The Northern CA DX Club, along with DX-WORLD.NET, have made the original West Coast DX Bulletin by Hugh Cassidy WA6AUD(SK) available online. The archive can be found at <a href="http://ncdxc.org/pages/wcdxb.html">http://ncdxc.org/pages/wcdxb.html</a>.

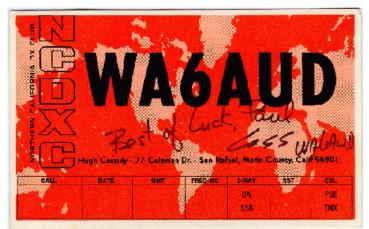
All 1968 - 1975 issues are currently available, with 1976 - 1979 expected online by the end of August 2014.

"Go back and re-read every issue:

- Learn about DXing during the peak and downside of solar Cycle 20 through the minimum into the upside of Cycle 21.
- Read about news countries that came on the air the first time, like Mellish Reef and Kingman Reef.
- Read about countries we now consider rare, that at one time were still active; AC3, FR/G, FB8W, FB8Z and FR/T.
- Read about the most wanted countries and about the DXpeditions that occurred.
- · Read where Lloyd W6KG & Iris W6QL Colvin were operating from.
- Read about Gus Browning W4BPD's plans and where Martti Laine OH2BH was operating from.
- You can also read about the early days of the NCDXF as well as activities of the DX Advisory committee."

Thanks to Paul Dunphy VE1DX, who received from Hugh his personal collection of every single issue published, shortly after Hugh ceased publication. Paul returned the archive to the NCDXC in January, and the NCDXC agreed to scan each issue and make it available.

The originals now reside in the W6CF Historical Library at the California Historical Radio Society in Alameda, CA



Ten-Tec has announced a "Knock Your Socks Off Mega-Sale" for the month of June.

Significant price reductions are shown for a large number of transceivers (with



options and accessories) and other items.

This may be the largest (non-clearance) sale in the history of Ten-Tec.

Early word from Ten-Tec is that some items are already sold out (including the Eagle 599AT), but orders are still being accepted and the sales prices will be honored. (Offers may change at any time)

More information available at http://www.tentec.com/sale/

### **DX News Briefs**

The 4M5DX Group announced at the end of June that it's attempt to operate as **YWØA** from Aves (Bird) Island has been delayed or even cancelled for the time being, due to "interference" and "sabotage" from another Venezuelan amateur. It is not known yet if or when the YW0A trip will be rescheduled. More information at <u>http://</u>www.avesisland.info/ -- 4M5DX Group



6V1W is currently QRV on HF through September. QSL via DO3MY – DXW

VE3ME will be QRV as 6Y3M for the IARU HF Championship 12-13 July. QSL via VE3ME — OPDX

ZL3GA will be QRV from OC-035 as YJØGA 25 – 28 July. He will be QRV 40 – 10 meters during the IOTA contest. QSL via ZL3GA – DX World

**PX8I** will be active from Itarana Island SA-060 23 – 28 July, 80 – 10 including the IOTA contest. QSL via PY8WW – DX World

Look for XRØYNTT from SA-001 Easter Island 2 & 3 August. More information at <u>http://www.ce2ntt.blogspot.com/</u> QSL via CE2NTT – CE2NTT

N7QT will be QRV as VK9X/N7QT Christmas Island 18 Sept – 2 Oct, 80 – 10. He will then be QRV as TX5D from OC-114 in the Austral Islands 3 – 13 Oct. A "holiday style" operation is planned, CW SSB & Digital modes. QSL via N7QT – N7QT

DF1YP plans to operate as **FO/DF1YP** from Moorea Island OC-046 18 September – 8 October, mainly 20 Meter SSB. QSL via DF1YP – DX World

DJ4EL will be QRV from Lamu Island AF-040 as 5Z4/DJ4EL 4 – 19 October, 40 – 10 SSB. QSL via DJ4EL – DX World

4W/K7CO should be QRV 19 – 31 October, 80 – 10 SSB & CW, including the CQ WW SSB contest. More information at <a href="http://www.nielsen.net/4w/QSL via K7CO">http://www.nielsen.net/4w/QSL via K7CO</a> – K7CO

A team of 16 amateurs are planning to be QRV from "Nosy Be" Island as **5R8M** 20 October – 4 November. They plan to have 4 stations QRV around the clock. They plan to use **5R8C**, possibly other calls, during the CQ WW SSB contest. More information at <u>http://www.mdxc.org/5r8m/</u> QSL via IK2VUC --Mediterraneo DX Club

TA1HZ will be QRV as **T88HZ** 25 – 26 October, during the CQ WW SSB contest. He may be QRV before & after as well. QSL via TA1HZ – TA1HZ

DDØVR & DE3BWR will be QRV as S79VR 3 –30 November, holiday style. The will be 80 –6 QRP CW, QRO/QRP SSB on the IOTA frequencies. QSL via DDØVR — OPDX

JA1XGI will be QRV as E6XG 1—6 December, 160—10, looking for EU & NA on the lower bands. He will be primarily CW, with some SSB & Digital. More info at <a href="http://e6xg.yolasite.com">http://e6xg.yolasite.com</a> QSL via JA1XGI — OPDX

### **QSL** Routes

3B9FR via MØOXO - JA1HGY 3D2KM via W6ZL - KB8NW AMØ1BD via EA1BD - KB8NW AMØ3NN via EA3NN — KB8NW AMØ7AAW via EA7AAW ---KB8NW AMØ8AT via EA8AT - KB8NW 4L1MA via ON4RU — AA5AM 5JØX via N7QT — JA1HGY A35V via N3SL - JA1HGY A35X via N3SL - JA1HGY CN2XA via DL2DXA — JA1HGY CR2X via OH2BH - W4DN E2ØAX via E21EIC - KB8NW E51JQY via JA1JQY — JA1HGY E51KJW via JA1KJW - JA1HGY ED1R via EC1KR — KB8NW

EE5W via EA5WP - KB8NW EF7X via EA7PP - KB8NW HKØ/N7QT via N7QT - JA1HGY J68HZ via K9HZ — KB8NW OA6Q via OE3NHW — KB8NW R1CC via DJ1ND - KB8NW T77LA via I4ZOS - KB8NW TY2BP via F6PCX ---KB8NW UN3M via EA7FTR — KB8NW V31MA via MØOXO — JA1HGY VP2MMN via DF8AN — JA1HGY YE2A via YB2DX — KB8NW ZD8O via N5ZO — W4DN ZD9M via ZS1A — JA1HGY ZF2DX via KØDEQ — JA1HGY ZS3Y via NI5DX ---KB8NW

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.

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#### 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

"While the event is still in the planning stages, Murray WA4DAN has received permission from Parks Canada for a one-day DXpedition to CY0 Sable Island as CYØC, slated for 8 September 2014.

The second operator will be Randy NØTG, also a veteran DXpeditioner with prior experience on Sable Island. They will be using the Sable Island Amateur Radio Station that Murray and the CYØP team left behind after their venture in October 2013. Murray will be QRV on SSB and Randy will operate CW. Antennas are expected to be 17 Meter and 20 Meter Yagis. At least one of the two stations will be QRO.

As usual, travel will be via Maritime Air Charter using their Britten-Norman Islander. Hours of operation will be limited by the requirement to fly during daylight hours. With luck, the DXpedition will operate from approximately 1300Z to 2100Z on 8 September.

Trip planning and logistics support are being provided by Gary VE1RGB who has been the logistics coordinator for three previous CY0 ventures and was an operator at CY0P. On this trip, he will not be operating but will instead be providing technical and operational support to Murray and Randy, and to the Sable Island ARS. Gary will be the QSL manager for CYØC.

Over-night stays on Sable Island are currently not being authorized because of renovations being carried out to Parks Canada facilities on the island".

- 73, Gary VE1RGB

Pete NL7XM reports that the new PennDOT Form MV-904 (07-14) shows a fee reduction for Amateur Radio call letter license plate tags, from \$20 to \$11. The form can be found at http:// www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/mv\_forms/mv-904.pdf

It's not known if this is an error, or a reflection of the budget impasse in Harrisburg (as of newsletter deadline)... but all Vanity Tag fees (including Amateur Radio plates) were expected to significantly increase in the next fiscal years, along with other PennDOT fees.

### Has Roadway found the tower yet?



Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, JuLY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 — The curious Amateur Radio enforcement case of Glenn Baxter, now ex-K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine, appears to winding down and may be at an end. The FCC dismissed Baxter's long-standing license renewal application on June 23, invoking its "Red Light Rule," which gives the Commission authority to turn down a pending application if the applicant has an unpaid fine on the books. Baxter was liable for a \$10,000 FCC forfeiture stemming from violations over a period extending back several years.

"Anyone filing an application [who] is found to be delinguent in debt owed to the FCC and who fails to pay the debt in full or make other satisfactory arrangements in a timely manner will have their application dismissed," said the Notice of Dismissal appended to Baxter's Universal Licensing System (ULS) file. "Because you have failed to resolve this matter timely, your application is hereby dismissed."

The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau dismissed Baxter's 2005 renewal application "without prejudice," which means that if Baxter wants to be licensed again, he must file a new application - and the FCC could again invoke its Red Light Rule. Baxter's license expired in October of 2005, but FCC rules gave him the authority to continue operating while his renewal application was pending. He lost that privilege effective on June 23.

"If you are currently operating under authority provided by the Commission's rules based on your submission of [a renewal] application, you must immediately cease operation until such time as you come into compliance with the rules," the dismissal letter said.

The legal history in the case is extensive. In 2011, the FCC issued a *Hearing* Designation Order to determine, among other things, if Baxter's Amateur Radio license should be renewed. According to the Order, "Baxter has apparently willfully and repeatedly engaged in unlawful Commission-related activities, including causing interference to ongoing communications of other amateur stations, transmitting communications in which he had a pecuniary interest, failing to file requested information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive, engaging in broadcasting without communicating with any particular station, and failing to exercise control of his station."

On January 10, 2012, the US District Court for the State of Maine issued a ruling in the FCC's lawsuit to collect Baxter's fine, initially \$21,000. In writing for the Court, Chief US District Judge John A. Woodcock Jr agreed with the FCC on the first two counts - willful or repeated failure to respond to FCC requests for information, and willful or malicious interference - and granted summary judgments to the FCC in the amounts of \$3000 and \$7000, respectively. The Court declined to rule on the third issue -communications in which an amateur station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest - asserting that issues of material fact remained to be litigated in the Court.

Earlier this month, in a seeming game of "hot potato," FCC Chief Administrative Law Judge Richard L. Sippel turned down an FCC Enforcement Bureau request that he dismiss Baxter's renewal application with prejudice. The Enforcement Bureau filed a Request for Dismissal of Application and Termination of Proceeding in March of this year.

"Mr Baxter did not submit a substantive opposition to the Request," Sippel wrote in his June 20 Order. While Sippel said the Bureau made a "convincing" case for him to drop the other regulatory shoe in the Baxter case and end the matter, he said he did not have that broad authority and turned the matter back to the Enforcement Bureau, which dismissed Baxter's application 4 days later.

Sippel said that upon dismissal of Baxter's application "by appropriate authority," he would terminate the proceeding upon the Enforcement Bureau's motion.

The FCC is requesting to raise the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from its current \$16.10 to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.50 increase would be the largest vanity fee hike in many years.

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The proposal is contained in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2014; Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013; and Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees," which appeared in The Federal Register on July 3rd.

The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014. The Commission said the vanity program generated \$230,000 in FY 2013 revenue, and it estimated that it would collect nearly \$248,000 in FY 2014.

Interested parties have 30 days to comment on the NPRM. Changes in the vanity call sign fee typically take effect in late August or early September.

## North Hills Amateur Radio Club 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest



July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Setup Time at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Parkwood Presbyterian Church, 4289 Mt. Royal Blvd, Allison Park, PA 15101

Indoor Tables \$10 — Tailgaters \$5/Space

General Admission \$5 to the public

Free Coffee — Free Parking — ARRL VE Testing at 10:00 AM

More Information at www.nharc.org



## Somerset County's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters Somerset County Technology, 281 Technology Drive, Somerset Admission \$5, Children Under 13 Free Free Outside Tailgating — Free Coffee — Free Parking ARRL VE Testing at 10:00 AM More Information at www.k3smt.org



## Skyview Radio Society Swap'n'Shop ARRL Western PA Section Convention

Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse 2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA Talk-in on 146.640 PL 131.8

Admission \$5 More Information at <u>http://www.skyviewradio.net</u>



## **Butler County ARA Swapfest 2014**

Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters Unionville Volunteer Fire Department

102 Mahood Road (at Route 8 North), Butler, PA 16001

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8 Admission \$5 More Information at <u>http://www.w3udx.org</u>

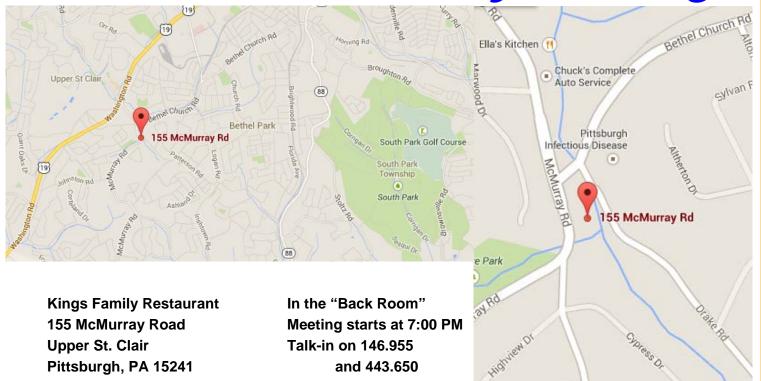


## WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. Membership Application/Renewal for 2014



(check quarter ──►) (check one <u>)</u>	☐ 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	□ 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	☐ 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	☐ 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
□ (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
$\Box$ (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
□ (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
(FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household	family members):	\$		
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# **Directions to the July Meeting**



and 443.650

See You There!!

Pittsburgh, PA 15241

### The WASHRag

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