



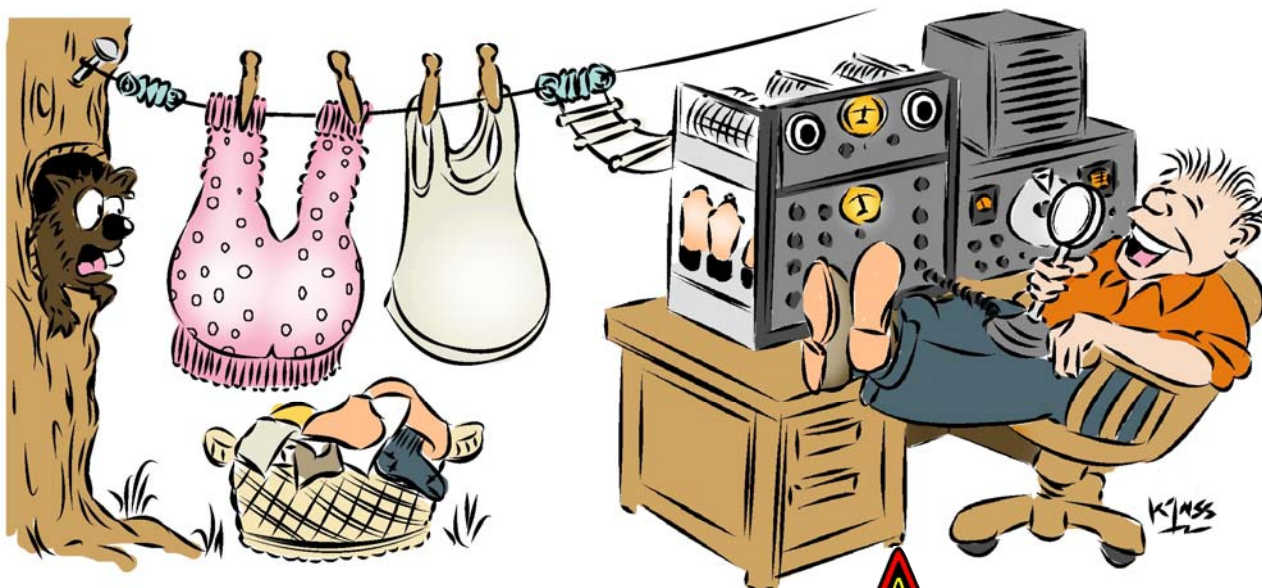
WASHRATM



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2014

Wireless Association of South Hills

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



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2014

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, November 6th, 2014

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, October 2nd 2014**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

This month is our annual Officers Elections, the resumption of the Arduino Project, updates on **WASHFest 2015**, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: Jim WB4GCS climbing the N3FB/R tower on September 20th. More photos on Page 10

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR

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 | Glen Roberts KE7FD |
| 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 2015 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.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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

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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

Next WASH VE Test February 22nd

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 22nd, 2015, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2015, CSVFD Memorial Hall**, 3600 Library Road, Castle Shannon, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is required due to limited space available. We will try to accommodate walk-ins but can not guarantee it due to lack of space. If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

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

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: 2015 Schedule To Be Determined

Location: **WPXI Community Room**

Carol's Comments



As everyone knows we now have a regular meeting place at St. Clair Hospital's Outpatient Center on Oxford Drive in Bethel Park! From what I have heard it is very nice! I would like to thank Rick Bell for all his work in getting this place for our meetings.

A notice will be sent out in time each month to let you know when the meeting will take place. It will usually take place on the first Thursday of the month. Our next meeting is November 6th, starting at 7pm. There will be a lot to discuss at our November meeting.

I hope all those who worked PA. QSO contest had a good time. Richie and I had a great time, we worked all 67 counties with 485 QSO's.

It took a while but we finished it up on Sunday around 3:30.

I am looking forward to WACOM HAMFEST and seeing all our friends there. See you at the meeting on Thursday!

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

*President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b*

If you've had problems recently connecting to the Logbook of the World server, or other ARRL online systems, it may be because of some recent Denial of Service (DoS) attacks that the League has been hit with over the last few weeks. ARRL IT staff are working on the problem, have identified the source, and hope to have the threat eliminated soon.

Thanks to the efforts of Rick Bell KB3IAC, and Venard Campbell from St. Clair Hospital, **our new meeting location is** the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center**, 2000 Oxford Road, Bethel Park, adjacent to Village Square, across Ft. Couch Road from South Hills Village Mall. Maps are located on the last page.

The room is available starting at 6:30 PM, the meeting will start at 7 PM.

Due to prior scheduling commitments, we will be meeting on the **FIRST** Thursday of the month for the remainder of the year. 2015 scheduling will be posted on the WASH Web Site once it is available.

We had a very nice turnout of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** on Saturday, October 26th at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. Maybe it was a little too good. Look guys, we're not trying to be nasty... we really do like seeing people come to breakfast each month (it's virtually a second, social, club meeting), and we know some people only decide to come at the last minute. That said, the turnout was three times what we told them was coming, and things got tight. PLEASE, if you're planning on coming, or at least thinking about it, let Jim WB4GCS know as soon as possible, so that we don't get split into 2 or 3 groups — or not have seats. We've been lucky on that so far, but there are Saturday's that Suzie's is close to full early in the morning. Please?

This weeks group included K3VX, N1NCZ & Pat, N3DFK, KB3DCO, WB4GCS, N3BPB & Jan, W3WH, N3IDH, KB3JHR, N3FB, KB3GMU, K3SGT & Barb, and a cameo appearance by KC4WTT. Subjects of the morning included Pa QSO Party recaps, "I only worked Randy", knee operations, piano recitals, attending soccer games, flying in to NYC, flash mobs, "how many people are stupid?", the ARRL elections, baseball parks, pipe organs, wives watching the grandkids for the summer and "bach-ing it", snowbirds, vertical issues, operating 160, end-fed dipoles, end-fed Zepps, Palstar no longer fixing older antenna analyzers, using an MFJ antenna analyzer to find a coax break, putting a 2 Meter rig back in the car... and we ran out of paper...

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, November 25th, as usual 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. See you there?

Rick KB3IAC informs us that **the following dates have been reserved for future club meetings**. We are for the most part scheduled on the first Thursday of the month, with some exceptions (in red) due to holidays or prior commitments of the board room at 2000 Oxford Drive:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| November 6 th | December 4 th | January 7 th |
| February 5 th | March 12 th | April 2 nd |
| May 7 th | June 8 th | July 2 nd |
| August 6 th | September 3 rd | |

The first announcement for the **15th Annual WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** are in this issue... on Page 20. (Yeah. 20. Who'd have thought?) Ye Editor would like this to be the last year that he is chairing the contest... between the newsletter, the VEC team, and acting as the N3SH/WA3SH QSL Manager, it's just too much on his plate.

The nice thing about a PDF based newsletter is that if you have to add some pages, you don't pay the USPS a fortune to mail it! Enjoy the issue — it just kinda grew some on us...

WASHNet 2014 NCS Schedule

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 11/09/2014 | Rick KB3IAC | 12/28/2014 | Glen KE7FD |
| 11/16/2014 | Sean N3NWR | 01/04/2015 | TBA |
| 11/23/2014 | Fred KB3DCO | 01/11/2015 | TBA |
| 11/30/2014 | Glen KE7FD | 01/18/2015 | TBA |
| 12/07/2014 | Bob AB3ED | 01/25/2015 | TBA |
| 12/14/2014 | Rick KB3IAC | 02/01/2015 | TBA |
| 12/21/2014 | Larry K3VX | 02/08/2015 | TBA |

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2015 Today! Membership Application on Page 25!

Minutes, October 2nd Meeting

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

Acting President Bill W3WH called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. There were 16 members and 4 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 Larry K3VX, second by Harold K3HCR, passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

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

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No report

VE (W3WN): Next VEC session Thursday, October 16th at WPXI. 2015 VEC Schedule to be set; next session will be at **WASHFest 2015**.

Repeaters (KB3IAC for N3FB): Everything is working. Recent visits to 2 of the 3 repeater sites. Jim WB4GCS attempted to climb the 443.650 tower to replace the feed line, but the winds that day were too great.

Some equipment has been donated by Rick, Jim and Frank for the Repeater Link (Phase 4) project; cost estimated at \$1470 with a lot of contingencies built in. Motion to budget up to \$1500 for repeater maintenance & the Link project by Rick KB3IAC, second by Gene KB3JHR, passed unanimously.

WASHNet (KE7FD): Current net schedule in the newsletter is directly off the club web site. Need more check-ins!

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): Pa QSO 2014 coming up. Several groups from the club will be operating. Rick KB3IAC expressed concern that there are not enough ops committed to N3SH/FAY, operation may be cancelled.

WASHFest 2015 (KB3GMU): ITEC is questionable due to Stu's ongoing health issues. Carol will have a table at the WACOM Hamfest and will pass out early **WASHFest** flyers.

Public Service: Short discussion on Amateur Radio operating at the Great Race.

Newsletter (W3WN): It's out.

Holiday Party (KB3IVX): January 9th 2015 at Peter's Place, starting at 6:30 PM. Limited menu. Price should be about \$25 per adult attending.

Old Business: none

Nominations: Floor opened for officer nominations for 2015, Ben KB3ERQ nominated for VP/Secretary (2 year term) by Harold K3HCR, second by Larry K3VX. Carol KB3GMN nominated for President (1 year term) by Harold K3HCR, Larry K3VX. No other nominations. Motion to close nominations until November meeting by Larry K3VX, second by Harold K3HCR and carried.

New Business: none

Good of the Order:

- Bill W3WH talked about the QRP operation at a Chartiers-Houston Library.
- Harold K3HCR announced that actor Tim Allen "KAØXTT" has gotten a real Tech license as KK6OTD. (See also last month's newsletter — Editor)
- Rick KB3IAC asked if the club would consider sponsoring a Radio Merit Badge program for the Boy Scouts.
- Venard Campbell from St. Clair Hospital explained how the hospital's emergency notification system (MIR3) works & how the club can be a part of it.

Motion to Adjourn by Larry K3VX, second by Fred KB3DCO and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:40 hours.

Following a brief recess for snacks and socializing, tonight's program on preparing for an upcoming Simulated Emergency Test and prepping for the ARRL's EC100 course commenced.

(The Arduino Project is scheduled to resume next month)



WASH Spotlight: HH!



"I carved this today" (October 28th)

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR

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 | KB3GMN | N3FB | WASH FL | WASH OH | Silent Keys |
| AB3EN | KB3GMP | N3IDH | KA3UPY/M | N8DPW | |
| AB3NM | KB3GMU | N3NWR | W4ZE | WASH SC | AB3KA |
| AB3PJ | KB3IAC | N3OVO | WASH GA | N3RNK | K3EED |
| AC4KU | KB3IVX | N3RDV | K3OL | WASH TN | K3LIE |
| AE3DL | KB3JHR | N3RHT | KB3IJX | KE3XB | KA3NMG |
| KØLIN | KB3PSB | N3SBF | WASH NE | N3YPB | KB3ENX |
| K3AIR | KB3WZT | W3LE | NØPEU | WASH TX | KB3FNM |
| K3GW | KB3YCX | W3RWS | WASH OR | K3LGM | KB3FQT |
| K3HCR | KB3YKL | W3VFA | NØVLR | Jane Wagner | N3FZ |
| K3JDS | KC3ANX | W3WH | NØWPV | WASH VI | N3HKQ |
| K3LGM | KC3BQI | W3WN | KB3NVL | NP2JF | N3KEH |
| K3SGT | KC4WTT | W4CKR | KB3NVM | | N3OBD |
| K3VX | KE7FD | WB4GCS | | | N3SKR |
| KA3ANU | KJ3D | Darryn Sleeman | | | N3SRC |
| KA3RXY | N1NCZ | | | | N3ZEL |
| KA3TWI | N2QIV | | | | N3XFE |
| KB3DCO | N3BPB | | | | W3ZLK |
| KB3ERQ | N3DFK | | | | WA3JPP |

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

Through October 30th, 2014
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2014 /15 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| November 1 st -3 rd | ARRL Sweepstakes CW | http://www.arrl.org |
| November 2 nd | WACOM 2014 Hamfest | http://wacomarc.org |
| November 6 th | <i>WASH</i> Meeting & Annual Elections | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| November 8 th -9 th | ARRL EME Contest | http://www.arrl.org |
| November 15 th -17 th | ARRL Sweepstakes SSB | http://www.arrl.org |
| November 29 th -30 th | CQ WW DX Contest CW | http://www.cqww.com |
| December 4 th | <i>WASH</i> Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| December 5 th -7 th | ARRL 160 Meter Contest | http://www.arrl.org |
| December 6 th -7 th | ARRL EME Contest | http://www.arrl.org |
| December 13 th -14 th | ARRL 10 Meter Contest | http://www.arrl.org |
| December 21 st | ARRL Rookie Roundup CW | http://www.arrl.org |
| December 31 st | Straight Key Night | http://www.arrl.org |
| 2015 | | |
| January 7 th | <i>WASH</i> Meeting (tentative pending holiday party) | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| January 9 th | <i>WASH</i> Annual End-of-Season Holiday Party | Peter's Place, Bridgeville PA RSVP to Jan KB3IVX by December 29 th |
| January 10 th | <i>WASH</i> 2 Meter Simplex Contest | http://www.n3sh.org |
| February 5 th | <i>WASH</i> Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| February 22 nd | 20th Annual <i>WASH</i> Fest 2015 | Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall Library Rd, Route 88, Castle Shannon |
| March 12 th | <i>WASH</i> Meeting (Pizza Night!) | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| April 2 nd | <i>WASH</i> Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| May 7 th | <i>WASH</i> Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |

"Seen" at the October WASH Meeting

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Ron Notarius W3WN



Venard Campbell (SCH) & KB3IAC



KB3DCO KB3JHR KE7FD KB3IVX



KE7FD N3RDV KB3YCX KB3IVX N1NCZ



N1NCZ



W3WH K3VX



KB3ERQ W3WH



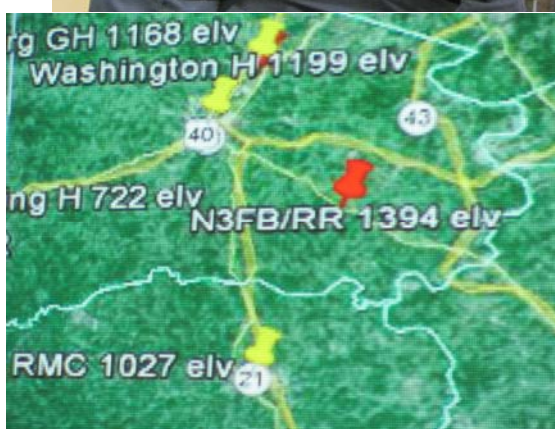
K3HCR KB3YCX KB3IVX



KB3JHR KB3ORO NU3Q



KB3IAC K3VX



W3WH /3 Pa QSO 2014: Always the Bridesmaid, Never the Bride

Bill Hill W3WH Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR

Once again this year at the Pennsylvania QSO party the team I worked with, Larry K3VX and Harold K3HCR missed a clean sweep in the event by one County: Venango. On some level it's frustrating and disappointing but in another way I suppose by not grabbing the big prize it keeps us coming back for more the following year.

I'm happy to know that Carol KB3GMN & Richie N3SBF got their clean sweep again from Clarion, and Randy N3ZK & Frank N3FB achieved a clean sweep from Forest. Excellent!

Larry, Harold and I rented a rustic cabin at Cowan's Gap State Park which happens to be on the Franklin/Fulton County line. Naturally the cabin wasn't half in either County but it was close enough to qualify under the rules. The park is only about a dozen miles off the Turnpike and about 15 miles from Chambersburg. You might as well have been in Siberia in terms of the outside world because there was no cell service, no Wi-Fi, no Internet. That impeded us a little bit but not enough to make any real difference.

We arrived at the park Friday afternoon and immediately began raising antennas. We began using a 43 foot fiberglass mast but it proved to be too flexible under our circumstances. We ended up putting ropes in trees to support the wire antennas. The first antenna we raised was a fan dipole as an inverted V. We next install Harold's BuddyPole (homemade) and set it up for 20 meters. As it turned out, we never found any activity on 20 meters in the QSO party, but the antenna did work. Harold had a couple contacts with it so all is well with that radiator.

We brought lots of food with us and although the cabin had no running water inside we ate well for the whole weekend. Friday night was spent arranging the cabin and the two operating positions for the contest. We woke up early Saturday morning in got on the air and worked several Hawaiians and ZL's on 40 meters, so we knew that the antenna was working, at least for DX purposes. Later Saturday morning we worked a few stations one in particular was W3HGT. He said we had a big signal. This all added to our optimism.

Also Saturday morning we raised a G5RV to give us two antennas that would work 80,40 and 20 meters in the contest.

As the contest began we had a steady rate of contacts to begin with, but we're not sure what happened. The noise levels came up and we had difficulty hearing people and the high demand for the Futon/Franklin County Line that we anticipated didn't happen. While Harold and I kept the home fires burning and two stations on the air, Larry went mobiling in Huntington County and had a fair degree of success. Saturday ended with us only having about 45 counties worked. I would be less than honest to say that we weren't discouraged about that. However on Sunday morning we soldiered on.

Larry went to Juniata and Perry counties to run mobile, and we actually worked him from Juniata. After he went to Perry we were unable to hook up with him but we worked someone else and Perry later on so that was not a loss to us. As the morning progressed we steadily adding counties and our level of optimism increased with each new one. When lunchtime arrived we only needed three or four counties.

About 1:00 on Sunday afternoon the much-anticipated pileups for Franklin & Fulton counties began, and we had a nice run of 70 or 80 contacts in less than an hour. We ended up needing only Venango to complete the sweep. We tried valiantly to find Venango and enlisted the help of Carol and Richie, who I understand did find a station on Venango, but then they couldn't find us. Nuts!

Around 4:00 Larry had returned, and prepared to drive home. Before he left he worked us from Franklin county.

At about 4:30 Harold and I ran out of steam and decided to accept our fate and agree that we had a good time, helped a lot of people achieve a clean sweep and generally enjoyed the weekend.

We packed up and arrived home a little after 9:00, tired, but satisfied with our efforts.

What about next year? Well we don't know yet but hopefully the next QSO party will provide a new adventure for us. Hopefully more people from the club will take advantage of this great ham radio event and had some fun during the second weekend of October 2015.



Congratulations to Ben Williams KB3ERQ for winning WPA Single-Op Low Power SSB in the 2013 IARU World Championship
See, it pays to send your log in!



Richie N3SBF at KB3GMN/Clarion 2014
(KB3GMN Photo)

K3VX Pa QSO 2014: K3VX Mobile

Larry Comden K3VX

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Larry Comden K3VX

This was the first time to try going mobile for the PAQP. The routes were planned in advance – Huntindon (HUN) on Saturday, Juniata (JUN) and Perry (PER) on Sunday. Daylight only.

I was going to operate 40M (and maybe 20M) both SSB and CW. There is no room for a computer to share the front seats of the Hyundai – I haven't used paper logs for many years.

Fortunately, the only part of the IC706 up front is the front panel. The rig is mounted to the back side of the arm rest. The fused 12VDC power comes directly from the battery to the distribution via #8 wire.

I was still left juggling a mike, a clipboard, a pencil, a paddle strapped to my leg and the receiver tuning. Very cramped and awkward position.

The HamStik antennas are not very efficient nor is the 2:1 SWR range very wide. I didn't use a tuner. To switch the HamStik from 7240KHz to 7040 I use a clip lead with about 4 inches of wire positioned about one foot below the top (capacitive hat?).

There's an RF feedback problem if the rig is transmitting with the engine off. The problem does not occur with the engine idling. I have no satisfying explanation for this. The only possibility that I thought of is that the (defective?) TR relay requires more the 12.6V to work properly. There's very little ignition noise in the system.

I set out from our portable station at Cowan's Gap SP early Saturday morning and driving on PA641 arrived at the top of Tuscarora Mt. around 10AM. K3JWI was an already active HUN station. Mobiles get special treatment in the PAQP – for instance, tolerance for poor signal strength. It was all search and pounce (S&P), even with 100W can't hold frequency to run. Rate was about 30 per hour. Returned to W3WH around 1PM.

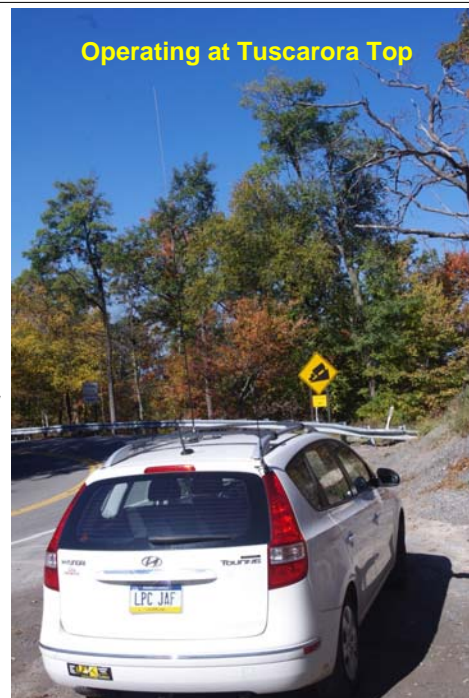
Same plan for Sunday except two destinations. The southern approach to JUN passes thru a gap in Tuscarora Mt. This is a bad location hemmed in by ridges far above the valley. I went several miles on PA 75 to a farm road parallel to the highway. That's just far enough so the ridge line appeared much lower. Conditions were much better than Saturday. Still the rate was about 30 per hour. Much more in demand than at HUN. Worked W3WH to give them their first JUN.

Backtracking to PA 274 north, then back to the top of Tuscarora (again!). The top is 1000 feet above the valley floor up an 8% grade Great for RF, but no view. Also in demand here in PER. After two hours I returned to base camp and belated lunch.

Observations: A permanently mounted Screwdriver antenna would be much better. Just imagine how reluctant I'd be to switch modes with a clip lead in a heavy rain. Fix the known RF feedback and any residual ignition noise. Solve operator comfort problems. Figure out a way to do computer logging. Buy a good headset with boom mike and in-line PTT switch.

Would I do it again? You bet. The drive thru the countryside was beautiful. I think we beat "leaf peeping" in Vermont, hands down. This from a native New Englander – me.

I don't think we have to go three hours east from Pittsburgh to active "rare" counties.



Operating at Tuscarora Top



CW Paddle Strapped to Leg



Some of the county markers encountered while operating mobile

First Shot for Fan Dipole at W3WH FUL/FRA



Harold K3HCR operating at W3WH FUL/FRA



WACOM HAMFEST 2014

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington PA

Sunday, November 2nd

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on 146.790 (No PL)



First Prize:
Second Prize:
Third Prize:

Ameritron 811-H HF Amplifier
Flat Screen Hi-Definition TV
Yaesu FT-8800 Dual Band Mobile

VE Testing at 10:00 AM

Black Box:

What is it? It's a Mystery!

— Only 50 Tickets Sold! —

iPad Drawing:

— Only 2000 Tickets Sold! —

Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM

Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

Check www.wacomarc.org for Updates

Vendors contact:

Bud Plants N3TIR bud@n3tir.com 724-350-6745

WACOM, c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ, 236 Chambers Ridge Rd, West Alexandria PA 15376

The Best Birthday Gift

Otis Vicens NP4G

Thursday night, October 23rd, as I usually do once my kids are put to sleep; I sneak my way to the shack to see if I can catch any new DXCC / Band Slot, or just to see what is around. I have put up a new 30 M / 40 M beam so it is the perfect time to use it.

After making some Q's on 30 M I see EK3GM from Armenia posted on the cluster calling on 20 M SSB. I was very tired so I figured it was going to be my last contact for the evening since I have to get up early for work. He was coming strong to the Caribbean. I gave him a call and got to work him. I uploaded my log to LOTW and went to sleep.

The Following day I checked my LOTW and I had his confirmation. When I started looking around my DXCC record, to my surprise, Armenia was a new DXCC. This is after about 6 years for intense DXing and Contesting I somehow have never heard an Armenian station on the air. Perhaps I am not as active I make myself believe.

I was thinking to myself, would it be nice to get EK3GM in the log for other bands? I sent Boris an email about scheduling a contact and I immediately got a response via email. He could work a few other bands in CW as well. We managed to schedule for 20M CW and then move to 17M CW. After I got off work, I managed my way home early and about 20:00 UTC I started calling on the 20 M CW frequency and there he was. So that makes it 20 M in both CW and SSB. We tried to make the contact on 17 M but there was no propagation at the time.

I sent him an email thanking him for the 20 M CW and wishing him a great weekend. To my surprise he said to try 40 M. I did not know what to do. I had to go drop off the kids at grandpa and grandma's so that my XYL and I could attend the meeting. I had told him that I should be back home at around 2:00 UTC but I was going to confirm via email. He said, "no problem, will be QRV", I thought to myself if he ever sleeps! It must be really late in Armenia. He had already been so nice to be there when I got home from work and he was going to be there when I got home from the meeting!!

At 2:00 UTC I sent him an email on the 40 M CW frequency and got to work him. Then we QSY'd to 30 M and another QSO. What an awesome operator! By that time it was Saturday so that marks my birthday. I told him that not only working a new DXCC entity, but working him on 3 bands was the best Birthday gift I could wish for.

Many thanks to Boris EK3GM for this birthday surprise and wishing for many more birthday DX in the future.

It's getting to be more challenging to receive the JT65B transmissions from the recently launched 4M (Manfred Memorial Moon Mission) lunar payload. The 13-character onboard messages posted from around the world prior to launch were expected to be transmitted this week and will be repeated. On October 25 Ghislain Ruy, LX2RG, of LUXspace said signals from the 4M payload were quite weak.

"This is not due to a loss of power, as telemetry shows normal parameters, but to the attitude of the last stage that places a deep [null] of the radiation pattern in the direction of the Earth." He expressed the hope that Earth's movement with respect to the inertial attitude of the spacecraft's last stage would yield better results in the days ahead.

"The 4M is becoming a real challenge now, and receiving the signals during flyby will be quite an achievement." He said those attempting to hear the 2 meter (145.980 \pm Doppler shift) downlink signal will need high-gain antennas. He predicted that signals will be 4 dB weaker when 4M is in the vicinity of the moon.

Radio amateurs have been encouraged to [receive and report](#) the spacecraft's signals. There is a [tracking calculator](#). A 4M payload [blog](#) also is available.

More than 2 dozen Earth stations have been capturing the 4M datastream on a near-continuous basis. Another 100 have registered to file reports with the 4M data warehouse.

— AMSAT UK via the AMSAT News Service

N3FB/R September 20th

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR

On September 20th, following breakfast at Suzy B's, an impromptu work party attempted once again to replace the feedline for the N3FB repeater. On hand were Frank N3FB, Lori KB3GMU, Rick KB3IAC, Fred KB3DCO, Jim WB4GCS and Harold K3HCR.

Unfortunately, as Jim reached roughly the half-way point on the tower, the wind had kicked in, and he did not feel that he could safely reach the top of the tower. The attempt was aborted for the day.

There may be another attempt by Frank & Jim this month, or the services of a professional tower climber might be employed. Noted climber Tim W3YQ has been contacted to see if he may be available.



N3FB/R October 18th

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2014 Frank Bobro N3FB

On Saturday, October 18th, another attempt was made to replace the N3FB/R 443.650 MHz cable from 7/8" to 2 1/4" coax. This time, the winds and weather cooperated, and the cable was successfully replaced.

The tower climber is Tim Jellison KL7WV (W3YQ) from KL7WV Tower Service. He was also responsible for installing the N3SH/R 146.955 antenna at St. Clair Hospital.

Also present and assisting on the ground were Jim Sanford WB4GCS and Lori Bobro KB3GMU.

Thanks also to Rick Bell KB3IAC and Jim Sanford WB4GCS for coordinating with Tim to make the arrangements to get him on site.



Microsoft Windows 10 Technical Preview

Greg Babin NB3C

I'm one of those types that has to be the first on the block with the newest and latest and greatest technology. So having said that, I decided to take the plunge and download Windows 10 Technical Preview.

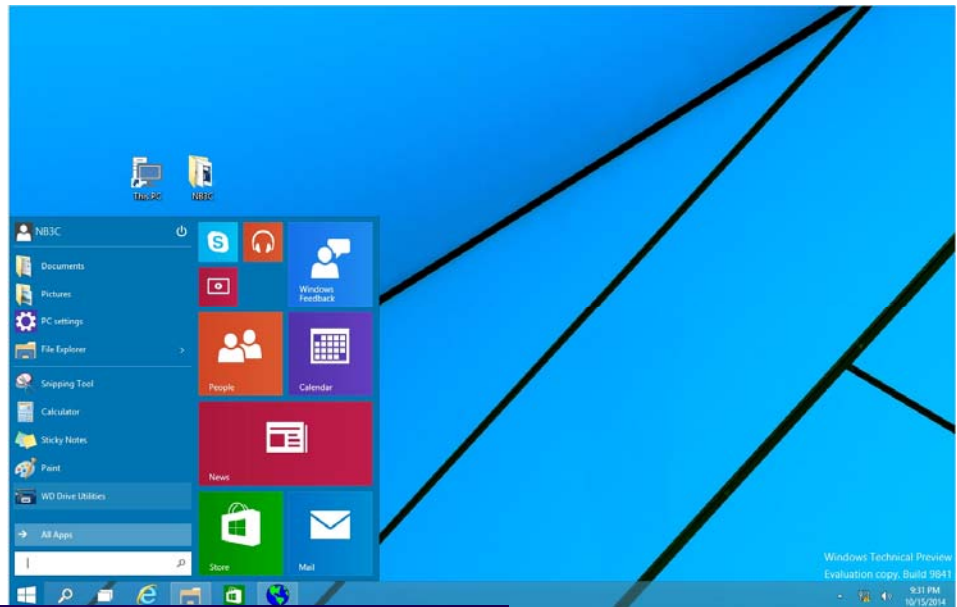
Yepper, that's right Windows TEN. For the longest time everybody thought it was going to be called Windows 9 and logically so, but between the debacle that Windows 8 was and is, and the newest Mac OS, OS X, MS decided to skip ahead one number and take it to Windows 10. Perish the thought if MS has an OS with a number less than the evil Mac systems.

So, what is different you ask? Good question. One of the biggest improvements is the reintroduction of the start menu you're all used to. Well, not quite, but rather it is a hybrid of the old start menu and the new start SCREEN. One nice thing I like is that you can set it up either as the start menu or the screen. I personally like the new start screen. I thought it was a refreshing update to the operating system, but apparently I am in the minority on this one. So, with Win 10, you can set it up to either one, but not both.

This here is the hybrid version of the start menu.

A combination of the old style menu you're used to seeing in Windows 7, and the newer style you'll see in Windows 8.

You can add or remove tiles on the right side of the menu to customize to your personal taste.



Windows Technical Preview
Evaluation copy, Build 9841
9:11 PM
10/15/2014

Start

NB3C



Now this is the Windows 8 style start menu.

Like I said earlier, you can set it up so you see either this style or the one above, but not both.

Again, you can add or remove tiles to suit your preferences.

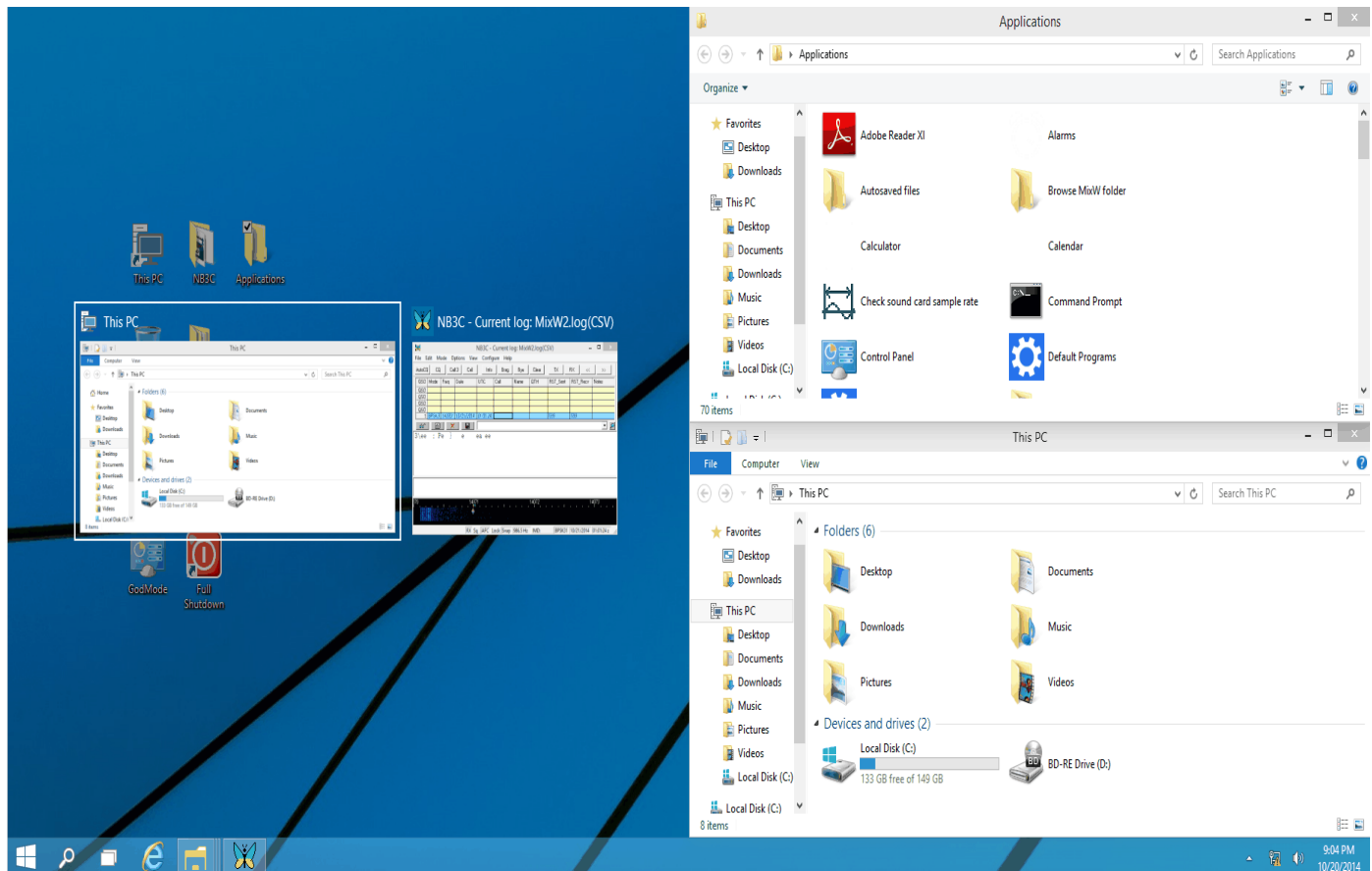
Another improvement they've made is the ability to 'snap' more windows. Now in Windows 7 and Windows 8, you can snap 2 windows side-by-side. But in Win 10, you can snap up to 4 windows, by dragging to whichever corner of the screen you wish to snap it to. Below is a view with 2 windows snapped to the right side.

On the left side (photo 3 next page), you can see a program I'm running (MixW). This is how the screen will look immediately after snapping 2 windows to the side. Just click on the screen anywhere to return to normal viewing.

Continued on
Page 10

Windows 10 Preview

Greg Babin NB3D continued from Page 9



As for Amateur Radio programs, I've tested the following, and have not had any compatibility issues:

- ♦ VE7CC DX Cluster,
- ♦ **MixW Multi-mode decoding software,**
- ♦ Buckmaster Ham-Call,
- ♦ **DXTreme v10 (My logging software),**
- ♦ Radio Amateur Callbook Summer 2012,
- ♦ **GeoClock 9.1,**
- ♦ VOAProp,
- ♦ **Rockwell Collins PropMan 2000 propagation prediction software,**
- ♦ Win-Test contest logging software v4.12.

I've also loaded Adobe Acrobat Reader XI, and OpenOffice (a free open source Office suite, similar to MS Office software. You can find it at <http://www.openoffice.org/download/index.html>). So far, so good.

About the only thing I don't like is the metro style apps in the start menu. I'd like to clean it up and put them in a folder, to make it less cluttered, but I haven't figured it out yet. Other than that it seems to be pretty stable.

I loaded Windows 10 onto my shack computers, and configured them as dual-boot systems. If you have a computer that you can load it on and play with, by all means do so. However, I do NOT recommend loading it as your primary OS on your primary family computer. It's a technical preview, still in the early stages, and may be a little wiggly on your system. Microsoft says to look for a consumer preview version early next year, with the final version hitting store shelves sometime in April. So far, it's been pretty stable on all of my machines.

Someday, Windows 7 is going to be obsolete. Sad but true. This may be the answer. Keep your fingers crossed that Microsoft fixes all that's wrong with Win 8 and incorporates it into Win 10.

Interested in downloading? Here ya' go: <<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/preview-iso>>

You can download the 32 bit and/or the 64 bit version. The serial number supplied will work on ALL computers, no matter how many you install it on. I believe the tech preview will expire sometime in February 2015, so it may stop working then. Download, play with it, and have fun!

73 de NB3C.

CQ Reverses Course On Crimean Contest Operators



Hicksville, NY, October 17th, 2014 — [CQ](#) has announced that it will no longer accept logs for any CQ-sponsored contest from stations in Crimea operating with Russian-issued call signs. CQ Magazine said that “after considerable deliberation,” it has decided to follow the lead of the US government and the United Nations and will consider the embattled Crimea region to be a part of Ukraine, “until such time as the political situation there is resolved.” In addition, contacts made by others with Crimean stations using Russian-issued call signs will be removed from contestants’ logs without penalty. “No contact or multiplier credits will be given,” the CQ announcement said.

“We fully realize that our action may very well disenfranchise several Crimean testers who use Russian prefixes instead of Ukrainian prefixes,” CQ said. “As regrettable as that may be, our action is consistent with international law, as well as with our own rules.”

Hicksville, NY, October 22nd, 2014 — [CQ](#) has reversed its just-announced policy that it would no longer accept logs for any CQ-sponsored contest from stations in Crimea operating with Russian-issued call signs and is adopting a new policy that is in harmony with ARRL’s DXCC policy. In announcing the shift, CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, cited concerns raised by “a large number of testers around the world” that CQ was unfairly denying Crimean radio amateurs the opportunity to fully participate in CQ-sponsored contests.

“Since the country list for CQ contests is based on a combination of the Worked All Europe (WAE) and ARRL DXCC lists, and the ARRL has already adopted a policy regarding Crimean stations in its award and contest programs, we will amend our policy to be consistent with the ARRL’s DXCC policy,” Ross said.

Ross said that listings of Crimean stations submitting logs for CQ contests will be based upon the call sign under which they operated. “If they used Russian-issued calls in the contest, they will be listed under Russia; if they used Ukrainian-issued calls in the contest, they will be listed under Ukraine,” he said.

Ross said the revised policy “reflects not only the desire of many testers around the world, but also of a large majority of members of the CQ World Wide DX Contest Committee.”

In its policy announcement of October 17, CQ had said that contacts made in CQ-sponsored contests with Crimean stations using Russian-issued call signs would be removed from contestants’ logs without penalty and with no contact or multiplier credit.

CQ [sponsors](#) several major international operating events, including the CQ World Wide SSB and CW contests. The first contest to be affected by the new policy would be the CQ World Wide SSB Contest.

ARRL Board May Seek Member Input on 15 Meter Novice/Tech Digital Privileges

American Radio Relay League



A proposal aired at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting endorsing additional HF digital privileges for Technicians and referred to the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) for study came in for considerable discussion when the EC met on October 4 in Memphis. The original motion by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Doug Rehman, K4AC, had called for a *Petition for Rule Making* to the FCC seeking digital privileges for Techs on narrow segments of 80, 40, and 15 meters. Rehman’s motion had noted that Technicians already enjoy digital privileges on 10 meters, a band with highly variable propagation that will diminish as the sunspot cycle declines.

After discussing the proposal’s pros and cons, the EC put the ball back into the Board’s court in a modified form: The EC recommended that the Board consider soliciting input from the membership on adding Novice/Technician data privileges within their existing 15 meter subband. In his original proposal, Rehman had pointed out that text messaging, a medium preferred by today’s youth, bears “great similarity with amateur digital communications.”

“This is not a proposal that the Board *adopt* data privileges for Techs and Novices on 15 meters as an objective, and it is most definitely not an ARRL proposal to the FCC,” stressed ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, a non-voting member of the EC. “That would come later, if at all, after the Board has had an opportunity to weigh membership input.”

In other matters, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told the EC to expect an FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* “sometime in the next few months” that will propose the elimination of the existing symbol rate limit on HF data communication. The *NPRM*, in response to an ARRL [Petition for Rule Making](#) filed last November, is expected to leave open for comment the specific bandwidth limitation that should replace it, and it may address additional topics.

Imlay also briefed the committee on recent discussions with US House Telecommunications Subcommittee staff regarding “[The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014](#).” The bill, H.R. 4969, had attracted 47 co-sponsors by the time Congress recessed. Another 10 representatives have committed to signing on when Congress returns next month after the elections.

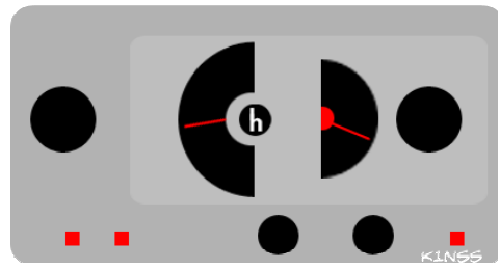
Imlay noted there has been no action on the League’s 2012 *Petition for Rule Making* to create an MF Amateur Service allocation at 472-479 kHz, nor on ET Docket 12-338, regarding implementation of the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2007. There also was nothing new to report regarding other allocation issues, including an Amateur Service allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz and upgrading 1900-2000 kHz to primary.

Imlay observed there had been a recent uptick in enforcement activity by the FCC. The EC also discussed the status of the 1984 agreement between the FCC and the ARRL that established the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC Field Operations Bureau — as a part of the Official Observer program — and the desirability of revitalizing this relationship with the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau. Imlay further reported that a review of power line interference case files is underway to identify serious cases still in need of attention.

The panel also discussed Amateur Radio’s role in a “model city” that would provide a real-world test stand for the evaluation of new wireless technology and spectrum-sharing strategies. In its comments in the model city proceeding, ET Docket 14-99, the ARRL called the Model City concept “a welcome development in proving sharing concepts in the real world.” The President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) had conceived the creation of an urban test city as a public-private partnership. ARRL has urged significant Amateur Radio involvement in the concept and stressed that the chosen test bed be free of public, private, or environmental antenna regulations that could preclude establishment of a representative environment.

In other matters, the EC approved a draft letter from the League to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel that lent support to efforts to postpone the dismantling of the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility in Alaska. The ARRL urged Hagel to maintain HAARP “in its current condition” until the National Science Foundation completes its review of a proposal by the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to take over the site from the US Navy Research Lab. The League took no position on whether future operation of HAARP is the best way to pursue ionospheric research.

“However,” the letter concluded, “as it is an existing facility with impressive capabilities that was constructed at considerable expense, it is only reasonable to preserve these capabilities until that question can be answered definitively.”



ARRL Elections: Update from ARRL Headquarters

Dave Sumner K1ZZ, ARRL Secretary for the Ethics & Elections Committee

Newington, CT, October 27th, 2014 —Dear ARRL Atlantic Division Member,

An election for ARRL Director and Vice Director is currently underway in the Atlantic Division. ARRL Full members of record as of September 10, 2014 are eligible to vote. If you have already voted, thank you for your participation. If not, the deadline for voting is noon EST Friday, November 21, 2014.

On October 1, members who were eligible to vote and for whom the ARRL had a valid email address were sent instructions on how to vote electronically, including a unique passcode for logging onto the election website. Those emails were sent from directvote.net operated by Survey & Ballot Systems of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. In a few days Survey & Ballot Systems will re-send those instructions to members who have not yet voted.

Members for whom no valid email address was available were mailed paper ballots on October 1.

Eligible voters may also access the election website by logging onto the ARRL website using their membership username and password and following a link to www.arrl.org/election.

Candidate information is available on the on-line ballot. *(Editor's Note: That information is reproduced on pages 14 & 15)*

For technical support (available Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Central Time, USA, excluding holidays), please call 952-974-2339 or support@directvote.net.

For other questions, please contact Lisa Kustosik, at lkustosik@arrl.org or 860-594-0245.

Thank you for your support as an ARRL member.

Meanwhile, Back At The Ranch...

Ron Notarius W3WN

Last month in these pages, I expressed concern about the processes for this year's elections for Section Manager and Division leadership, especially compared to year's past. In light of events of the past month, I thought an update would be in order.

I expressed some frustration over the inability to find out anything about the election process, and the lack of feedback from most of the candidates. After the October issue went out, I received an email from some friends out in the EPA section urging me to consider the candidates that they are backing in the election, even though I had yet to hear from any of them/

I also received a telephone call from Division candidate Phil K3TUF. He apologized for not getting back to me, that he'd simply been plowing through his list of clubs to contact, and simply hadn't reached us yet. Fair enough. We ended up having a 45 minute conversation.

No other Division level candidate contacted me at the time via telephone, email, or any other means.

Meanwhile, mid-month, my paper ballot came in the mail. For Section Manager only. As mentioned last month, I was one of the many who were involuntarily switched to electronic balloting, but what wasn't clear in that initial notice in August was that this pertained to the Division election only — NOT to the Section level election. So many people who received just the one ballot in the mail, who were not aware of the electronic balloting (see K1ZZ's email reprinted above), have only voted in one election — and not the other.

Also at mid-month, I received a query from K3TUF asking me about the Division ballots. Some back-and-forth revealed that there are quite a few ARRL members in the Atlantic Division wondering where their ballots where... again, see K1ZZ's email reprinted above... and were asking questions. Phil asked me to pass the word around about the concern. He offered to pass the names along to ARRL officials that he was in touch with, so that anyone who wanted a ballot would get one. (Thus my emails to the club at that time).

I learned several things from this.

One was that this was not only an Atlantic Division problem. I received emails from friends in Ohio who told me that they'd had the exact same issues with electronic balloting in their Division.

Another was that no good deed goes unpunished. I received a somewhat nasty email from one of the Vice Director candidates blasting me for passing out incorrect information, and that the instructions I'd gotten from Phil were "wrong." Although a follow-up email was a little more pleasant, I was left with the distinct initial impression that I had no business getting involved... in trying to encourage people to vote. Not whom to vote for. Well, that's a lesson I may never learn.

Suffice to say that of the three candidates for Vice Director, this initial email was enough to make me decide whom NOT to vote for.

But finally, I learned disappointment. This issue had been known for some time, yet no one who knew about it said anything. And by "no one" I mean the people who are holding these elected offices.

Look... I get it. It's something new, this is the first time the League is implementing it, and problems & unforeseen consequences were bound to happen. No problem there.

But... why didn't any of our Division leaders notify the membership that there was a problem? Why was nothing publicly said, until I got tipped off about it and asked to unofficially let people know?

I'm no politician. (Trouble maker? Definitely. But that's another story.) I had a taste of these positions years ago, and I didn't like it. I don't want one of these positions, and would not hold one even temporarily. So if someone really wants one of these jobs, they're welcome to them.

However, the caveat is, the right people have to hold the jobs. Not someone who wants to be The Authority In Charge., Not someone who's ego demands they have a fancy (sounding) title, but won't actually do the mundane tasks that the jobs require.

IMHO, anyone currently in an ARRL leadership position who didn't let the ARRL membership in the Division know that there were balloting issues, has fallen down on the job. I hope it was merely an oversight or a mistake. But if it wasn't... that's not someone who I'd want to see holding those positions in the future.

And that's the bottom line.

ARRL Elections: Candidate Statements: WPA Section Manager

Timothy J. Duff K3LR

Hello, I am Tim Duffy, K3LR. I'm running for ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager and I would appreciate your vote. I have been a member of the ARRL since becoming licensed 42 years ago (at age 12—Amateur Extra Class since 1974) and I am a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University.

I have a solid record of giving back to our Amateur Radio hobby. I served as Atlantic Division representative to the Contest Advisory Committee for four years and was appointed as Chairman during the last two years of my service. I have current working relationships with many ARRL Directors and HQ executive staff. I have been an active member of ACS and RACES for over 40 years with extensive net and traffic handling experience and I currently participate in six different HF/VHF nets each week.

I embrace strong leadership and have deep experience with amateur radio clubs. I am currently president of two ham radio clubs and I am also Vice President of the oldest wireless club in the world — the Radio Club of America (RCA). In 2010 I was awarded the Barry Goldwater Amateur Radio Lifetime Achievement Award. I understand what it takes to help clubs create enthusiasm for our hobby and I am currently leading a TECH/GENERAL class at the Butler Community College.

I am founder and Chairman of Contest University, with over 3000 graduates in 8 years. In 2006 I was inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame.

I am involved with many technical aspects of our hobby from repeater building, to interference solving, to antenna design. I promise to help our amateur radio hobby prosper in Western PA. I will focus on communication, clubs, public relations and cooperating with the ARRL field organization. You can learn more about K3LR at <http://www.k3lr.com>.

Paul Plants W3PLP

I became an Amateur in 1995 and was very interested in repeaters. I then built 440 and a 2 meter repeaters.

I am a member of ARES, RACES, Washington Amateur Communications (WACOM), Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC) and Cambria Radio Club. I am past President WACOM. I have held all positions in WPRC, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Frequency Coordinator, Vice Chairman, and I am currently Chairman. I hold Extra Class license and ARRL VE.

I have assisted with several field day, fox hunts, hamfest.

I am starting to operate HF and am building a station with 3 radios and several antennas which can operate at the same time.

Now what I will do for Amateurs of ARRL WPA District. I will be your connection to the Atlantic Director and ARRL. I will take emails and phone calls to assist you in your needs. I will make information available as soon as it arrives. If elected I will be attending club meetings to answer questions and release new information from the ARRL. I will serve all amateurs in the ARRL WPA District, hoping to bring new members to ARRL.

In closing I hope to be your next WPA Section Manager. I will serve you to the best of abilities.

I appreciate your vote.

73

Cynthia L. Rushton WB3CNJ

Born June 1959, daughter of Gary A Linton, formerly WB3CFC, now deceased. Father, self and sister took Novice test in late spring of 1976, and am only person of the 3 who upgraded to General class with no tutoring in December 1977. In September 1996, decided to upgrade to ultimately obtain Extra class license. By November 1996, went from General class to Advanced class to Extra class with no tutoring.

Became VE and Registered Instructor (RI) in December 1996 and am not current VE, but still am RI.

Life Member ARRL, HANDIAMS, QCWA, member of FISTS and YLRL, founded West County Amateur Radio Association, KB3PSL, which is a member of WPRC, and an ARRL Affiliated club, also founded Erie/Crawford VE Team.

Current and former hams in family are WB3CFC (Gary Linton), WB3CFL (Rebecca Linton nka Yocum), WB3CNJ (self), N3XWM (Alexander Rushton, spouse), KB3SGA (Jason Keefer, son-in-law), and KB3SGB (Karen Keefer, daughter).

Favorite modes of operation include, but are not limited, to, Morse code (the reason I got interested in Amateur Radio initially), 2M FM, Echolink, VoIP, QRP, and would eventually like to get into 6M & RTTY.

Was the first female to take Electronics in high school in the later 1970's., and the only woman in my Electronic Technician training class in the mid 1980's. (Father was an Electronic Technician for a well known company in Erie PA, where I was born).

As Primary Repeater Trustee of KB3PSL, have extensively traveled to different part of the WPA section, and believe in equality, ethical practices being carried out, and being attentive to the needs of all of the WPA Section and it's members/

The above statements have been reproduced from material supplied by the candidates, as mailed with ballots from the ARRL Web Site. They have been screened for typographical errors, and some paragraph spacing was added during the transcription process, but otherwise have not been edited in any way.

As quality color photos of each of the candidates was not available, and the scans of the black and white photographs in the printed Election Circular were of questionable quality, no photos of the Section Manager candidates are included.

On Thursday, October 16th WASH held an exam session at the WPXI Community Room. Many, many thanks to our Volunteer Examiners for their help:

- ◆ Frank N3FB,
- ◆ Glen KE7FD,
- ◆ Ron W3LE,
- ◆ and Ron W3WN

We had two successful candidates, both of whom passed their Technician Exams:

- ◆ Ron Brown KC3DQQ (photo on Page 14)
- ◆ Colin Swan KC3DQR (photo on Page 14)

Congratulations all!

The complete WASH VE Exam schedule for 2015 has not been finalized yet. With that in mind, Frank N3FB has been kind enough to offer use of the WPXI Community Room again.

Once the schedule is finalized, it will be printed in the newsletter and published on the N3SH web site, <http://www.n3sh.org>

Our next schedule VE Session will be at **WASHFest 2015**, February 22nd, 2015, at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall. Exams will start at 10:00 AM.

Due to space limitations, we will require pre-registration for this session. Walk-in candidates will be accommodated only if space and time are available.

ARRL Elections: Candidate Statements: Atlantic Division Director

Tom Abernethy W3TOM

It is critical that the position of Director, who decides policy for all our members, have a hands-on working knowledge of Amateur Radio, the Field Organization and the operation of Board of Directors.

As a licensed Amateur for over 40 years I have been actively involved in the following:

Elected Vice Director of the Atlantic Division for last nine years, MDC Section Manager, MDC Section Emergency Coordinator, Emergency Coordinator, Teaching licensing classes and emergency communications classes, Mentor, Life member of ARRL, AMSAT and QCWA, PVRC member.

Other Amateur Radio interests include:

Contesting, chasing DX, emergency communications, digital radio operation, CW-QRP, EME, designing antennas, NTS, and repeaters. My wife and son are both licensed Amateurs.

I've worked closely with Director Bill Edgar N3LLR, to attend hamfests, club meetings and conventions throughout the Atlantic Division in an effort to be available to the members to hear their suggestions and concerns. We've pioneered bringing our Division community together through the use of 67 informational webinars and have expanded the attendance at our Division convention by making it virtual.

I began my career as a law enforcement officer in our nation's capital. After retiring from there I became the Radio Services Manager for Prince William County, VA. My responsibilities encompassed the technical integrity of the County's critical Police/Fire Radio and Microwave Backbone Communications Systems. Related volunteer experience has been as President of the Mid-Eastern Chapter of APCO and serving on the Executive Council of APCO International. I am also a former Scoutmaster.

I ask for your vote to allow me to use my unique qualifications, proven leadership experience and enthusiasm to find common ground, weigh options and make the decisions that will lead the ARRL forward as we begin the next hundred years in our Amateur Radio journey. Thank you.

See the website: www.Hams4Atlantic.org



Phil Theis K3TUF

Licensed since 1962, ARRL member since 1968 and regularly active on HF, VHF, and microwaves for everything from casual contacts to serious DX and contesting including digital modes. Family station with XYL, KA3TUF.

Currently Assistant District Emergency Coordinator, Volunteer Examiner, RACES Officer, member of Frankford Radio Club, President of the Packrats and Chairman of the Amateur Radio Working Group organizing eight counties cooperative EC activities.

I have extensive management experience building several successful companies in the IT industry. I am also a coach for Special Olympics in Skating, Gymnastics and Skiing.

The ARRL should actively seek out the needs and opinions of the amateur community by increasing the lines of communications, from the grassroots up. As your representative, I'll solicit your input and ideas, keep you advised of issues affecting amateur radio, and topics scheduled for ARRL BOD action. I'll solicit your input before the vote; let you know the results, and the reasons for the decision.

One of my first actions will be to create a Council of Club Presidents as an advisory group. The Council will provide a conduit for amateurs' voices and concerns to be heard from every corner of the Division. I want the affiliated club presidents to feel like they are a part of the team and have direct access to League matters. This will give their members a clear path to ARRL policy issues.

I will appoint Assistant Directors from the entire Division and lead a team made up of the Vice Director and the Assistant Directors to keep you informed; ensuring that all of the Division is represented. I'll work closely with the Section Managers to see that their needs and concerns are addressed.

I will be a TUF defender of your interests at the League.

Please see k3tuf.com for more information.



The above statements have been reproduced from material supplied by the candidates, as downloaded from the ARRL Web Site. They have been screened for typographical errors but otherwise have not been edited in any way.

Meet Our Recent VE Candidates & New Technicians!



**Colin
Swan
KC3DQR**



**Ronald
Brown
KC3DQQ**

ARRL Elections: Candidate Statements: Atlantic Division Vice-Director

Scott Bauer W2LC

I have served the ARRL membership as the Western New York (WNY) Section Manager (SM) from 2000 to 2010. I currently serve as an Assistant Section Manager in WNY. I have enjoyed Amateur Radio since 1969 and hold an extra class license. I graduated from the University of Buffalo with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Currently I work at Syracuse Research (SRC Inc.) where I apply my engineering knowledge to a variety of innovative devices.

As an active amateur you can work me in most major contests both on HF and VHF. You can find me chasing DX or operating as net control of the NYS CW net on Saturday evenings. I am a member of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA), and past president and past secretary of the Rochester DX Association. I am the father of three, a son and two daughters, two of whom are licensed amateurs, KC2GFA and KC2VVZ. My interests include attending hamfests, golfing, gardening, coaching softball, mentoring youth, building radio related gadgets, horseback riding, going for a walk in Onondaga Lake Park and an occasional 5k.

Over my almost 11 years as Section Manager I learned that Amateur Radio operators are a diverse group and communication with the membership is important. As Section Manager I attended many hamfests and club meetings and listened to member concerns. The ARRL needs strong leadership that will listen and seek membership input on important matters. I will bring leadership and technical knowledge to the ARRL. I seek your support and vote for the ARRL position of Atlantic Division Vice-Director. I will be a voice for the membership of the ARRL. It is all of you that make Amateur Radio a great hobby and the ARRL a great organization. Thank you for your consideration. 73 Scott W2LC



Bob Famiglio K3RF

My name is Bob Famiglio, K3RF. I have lived in our Atlantic Division my entire life. I was an ARES DEC for years, and have been ARRL Atlantic Division volunteer counsel since 1980, and an active ARRL member since 1967. Currently, I serve as EPA Section Manager. Today, I ask for the opportunity of serving as your Atlantic Division Vice-Director.

My interest in radio is broad; I'm equally comfortable chatting late at night on 160 meter CW, running emergency ARES traffic on 5.7 GHz digital modes, and everything in-between. Like many of you, I have "been-there-done that" in ham radio.

I have worked alongside our Division Director and Vice-Director supporting your interests, and learning about League operations. I am an engineer, lawyer, pilot, firefighter & vehicle rescue technician, but first and foremost I am a Radio Amateur. Why vote for me? *The best test of where a candidate will go is considering where he has already been.*

I have:

- Successfully promoted zoning relief for hams and represented them in court;
- Worked with a State Senator, his legal staff and state representatives to pass ham-friendly zoning laws;
- Fought against overreaching cell phone laws prohibiting radio operation and APRS while mobile;
- Facilitated discussions with government emergency management agencies' staff on interoperability with ARES, now and in the future; and
- Filed formal comments with the FCC to argue against taking our frequencies, clogging our air waves with BPL and RFI, allowing incompatible shared spectrum users, and other issues important to you.

With your support, I look forward to assisting our Division Director as Vice-Director into the future. Please see www.Hams4Atlantic.org to consider my qualifications and my pledges to you. Visit these websites for more information: www.QRZ.com and www.Linkedin.com.

Vote for the candidate of your choice, but please vote!



John Mueller K2BT

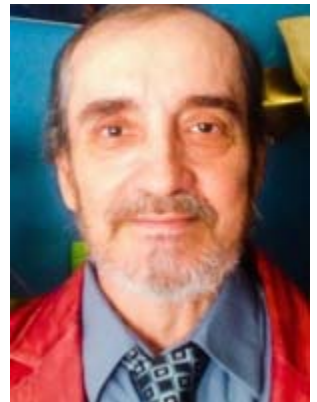
Hi everyone, I am the current Section Manager for WNY and have also been Emergency Coordinator for Chautauqua County, NY, Club President and Club Board Member. I'm married to Laura – N2LJM with 2 kids, Trey and Matt – K2MAT. I'm also a Disabled Veteran so I have plenty of time to devote to the Vice-Director position as I have in my previous positions.

I'd like to take a minute to tell you about Syracuse, NY. Some exceptional Hams in the area managed to get amateur radio on the school curriculum as part of the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program for grades 10, 11, and 12. They are working on getting grades 7, 8, and 9 on board as well. We are working with them at the section level to get it in many more schools in Western New York.

I would like to see this happen in all schools in the Atlantic Division and hopefully others. We found a way to help get our youngsters involved in amateur radio and hopefully they will get licensed and use the radio. They are our future and we need them!

Another concern is the current lack of communication to the membership at the Division level. This is unacceptable and needs to change. Every Section Manager and Club President should have direct access to the Director and Vice-Director. This could be accomplished by doing what Phil K3TUF has suggested - setting up a reflector, one for Section Managers and one for Club Presidents. That way we will have ongoing conversations. What better way to know what is going on in the division than by asking those who were elected by you.

Thank You for your service and continued support. I look forward to serving you as your Atlantic Division Vice-Director. '73



The above statements have been reproduced from material supplied by the candidates, as downloaded from the ARRL Web Site. They have been screened for typographical errors but otherwise have not been edited in any way.

ARRL Members: If you have not received a paper/mail ballot, go to the ARRL Website, <http://www.arrl.org>. Login with your user ID (or register on the site with your ARRL Membership ID number, shown on your QST mailing label). From the menu, select Election News, or go to <http://www.arrl.org/elections> to view the ballot, and review the candidate biography information shown on pages 12 & 13.

The Wireless Association of South Hills has not endorsed any candidate for Atlantic Division Director or Vice-Director. But we do urge you to read over biography information, and vote for the candidates you feel are best to represent the Division for the next three years.

"Safety, Schmafety"

Eric P. Nichols KL7AJ

KL7YS "Young Squirt" popped in for coffee the other day, wending his way around a teetering maze of rickety bookshelves on the way to the creaky staircase leading down to my dungeon. I didn't hear him come in as my trusty David Clarks were clamped securely around my cranium, completely shutting out the universe, in deep concentration on the bottom end of 40. He announced his presence by quickly flashing the shack lights off and then back on.

Phil Leggett was his name, but I never called him that. I never even called him Phil. He had a perfectly good ham radio suffix which I always used instead. It fit him to a coaxial T.

"Hi Squirt," I said, barely acknowledging his presence. "Be with you right after I sign off with this TA3," I lied.

Squirt blew some dead flies out of a mug, glopped some coffee sludge out of the decrepit urn that wheezed on the edge of the workbench next to the operating position, and plopped down on the guest stool. I taught squirt how to drink shack coffee; he'd been as pure as the driven snow before I got hold of him. He still had this annoying thing about safety, though. I figured sooner or later I'd break him down in that area, too.

I worked six more stations after the TA3 before I figured I'd better entertain my young guest. I finally doffed my skull crushers and gave Squirt my undivided attention.

"Glad you made it! I have a few jobs for you to do, if you're so inclined."

Squirt took a sip of the coffee. "Sure. Helpful is my middle name." He put the mug down and spun around on the stool a few times.

"Right," I said. "Well, I need to resurrect that monster homebrew amp on the floor by your feet. I Might have a buyer for it. Just getting older and dustier down there. You wanna hoist that up to the bench for me? I'm getting pretty old; I don't want to sprain anything, you know."

"Uh, sure," Squirt said, glancing furtively around the basement. "Do you have any gloves I can borrow?"

"You afraid of getting your hands icky?" I teased.

"No, I don't want to cut myself in case there are any sharp edges on the cabinet."

"Why do you think God invented Band-Aids?" I said. "Do you need a doily to set the thing on, too?"

Squirt rolled his eyes as only a teenager can do. I directed his attention to a cabinet that hadn't been opened in years....because it had a half-full acetylene tank propped up against the door. "There's probably some gloves in there," I said, accommodatingly.

"Aren't these supposed to be chained to something?" Squirt asked, incredulously. "If it got knocked over, it could blow this place right off the map."

"Then don't knock it over," I suggested.

Squirt glared briefly, and set to work rolling the acetylene tank out of the way. He opened up the cabinet door and peered inside; beholding the ancient bottles of unknown potions perched on the shelf inside. "What is THAT stuff?" he queried, pointing to an unlabeled quart flask partially full of a dull grayish metallic something or other.

I squinted across the floor in the dim light. "Well, I'll be dipped in shellac. I wondered where my mercury got off to! I haven't seen it in...oh...twenty years or so!"

"M-m-mercury?!" he sputtered. "You mean like *mercury* mercury?"

"What other kind is there?" I answered.

"Isn't that BAD stuff?" Squirt gasped.

"Only if you drink it or snort it. You don't plan on doing that, do you?"

"How much IS that??!!" he sputtered again.

"Oh, about thirty pounds I imagine, from the looks of it."

"Why would anyone need thirty *pounds* of mercury??!!"

"I don't *need* it...I've just sort of collected it over the years. By the way, don't break that bottle; it would take us forever to clean up the mess."

"I...uh...won't," he said, with a certain paleness in his voice. He peered at another bottle. "Um, what's C Tet, if I dare ask?"

"Oh. That's Carbon Tetrachloride. It's great for cleaning electrical contacts."

"Isn't that *banned* or something?!" he gasped again. There seemed to be a lot of gasping going on. Silly safety-oriented kids.

"Well, if you mean you can't buy it any more, that would be true. But I have enough to last for a lifetime. I don't think the Carbon Tet Nazis would bother to come down here, anyway."

Squirt promptly closed the door to the cabinet, as if in so doing he would prevent the escape of some zombies. "There aren't any gloves in there," he said. There probably were, but I'm pretty sure he just wanted to get out of there in a hurry. He rolled the acetylene tank back into position.

"I-I guess I can do without gloves," he announced at last.

"Here...I'll help you hoist the thing up to the bench," I suggested. "I'm not *that* old and decrepit."

"Lift with your legs, not your back," Squirt instructed, as I was about to commence with the latter. I'd been lifting boat anchors with my back for the past fifty years with no ill effects, but I decided to humor the little twerp, just for kicks. I dutifully squatted down in proper fashion on my side of the rig, and we had it on the bench with no strains or sprains.

"I think your amplifier is leaking," Squirt observed, glancing a gloppy substance which adhered to his fingers.

"Oh, just some transformer oil, I'm sure," I said.

"What's transformer oil? I thought transformers were...well...*transformers*."

"Most of the time, yes. But some of the bigger ones....like this here...used oil for cooling. We filled them with Askarel in the day."

"What's Askarel?"

"It's just one of a few different types of PCBs we used. Used to pick it up at the power company super cheap."

"P-p-p-C-c-c-B-b-b-b-s," he sputtered again. "You mean like...P-p-p-C-c-c-B-b-b-b-s, the really bad stuff??!!"

"A few PCBs never hurt anyone. I used to be up to my armpits in the stuff when I was in the broadcasting biz. I haven't grown any unusual appendages."

Squirt stared at his hand like it was glowing green with radioactivity. I grabbed his hand and licked the offending substance off his fingers. "Nope...just mineral oil...my bad. PCBs have a more bitter taste. This rig is more newfangled than I thought."

Squirt rolled his eyes. "Gee, that's really great to know. You're a very insane man."

"Safety, Schmafety"

Eric P. Nichols KL7AJ continued from Page 18

"Thank you. Well, let's fire this beast up and see what happens." I unrolled the power cord and noticed that it was a 220 VAC plug for which I had no matching receptacle.

"Well, I guess we can't do anything," Squirt said, sounding oddly relieved.

"Not at all! Grab me two extension cords. I'll just run one from two outlets on opposite sides of the room; they'll be on different legs."

"Say what??"

"Hey Squirt; it's just electricity."

"Don't you know anything about the Electric Code?!!!"

"Electric code, Schmelectric code. They were written by politicians. Ohm's Law was written by God himself...it doesn't give a rat's patoot about no electric code. Get me those extension cords!"

Squirt reluctantly complied, producing two semi-non-disintegrated extension cords from the darkness. I jammed one pin of the 220 plug into the hot lead of one extension cord, and the other pin into the other one. "There! Just like professional!"

"Uh, don't you need a neutral or something?" Squirt suggested, turning somewhat greenish.

"Oh...probably wouldn't hurt," I said. "I think I'll just grab that jumper cable over there and ground the cabinet to the bus bar on the back of the bench. Ground is ground."

After connecting up the jumper cable, I gestured toward the main power breaker on the front panel of the beastly boat anchor. "You may have the honors, Squirt."

"Do you have a broomstick or baseball bat or something to flip it with? I really want to be a ways away from this...like in a different room...or different neighborhood...or something."

"Don't be such a pantywaist, Squirt. Ham radio is a man's hobby."

Squirt sighed and then positioned himself in a sprinter's crouch, facing away from the bench in order to make a quick getaway should it be necessary. He reached behind him and, with visible trembling, flipped the switch. A fan came to life, accompanied by a mild hum and a gentle orange glow. A few moments later, the eerie purplish blow glow of mercury vapor rectifiers bathed the room.

"What's that!" Squirt asked nervously, getting ready to sprint out of the room again.

"What's what?"

"That purple glow!"

"Those are mercury vapor rectifiers."

"It's *supposed* to do that?"

"Do what?"

"Glow purple like that! It looks like it's gonna blow!"

"Just some friendly ionization. Doing what they do best."

"Shouldn't we be wearing...um...lead aprons or something?"

"A little ultraviolet never hurt anyone. You could use a tan anyway."

We admired my handiwork for a minute or two...or at least / did...when we were unceremoniously interrupted by a sizzling sound, followed by a loud hum and then a few clicks and clacks, and then utter darkness. Squirt began to scream as if he was alone in an absolutely pitch black basement with a madman and a demon-possessed linear amplifier.

"Call 911! Where's the first aid kit! We're going to die down here!"

"Oh, fer Pete's sake, calm down! It's just a couple of popped circuit breakers. Mercury vapor rectifiers sometimes backfire if they haven't been used for a while."

Little did Squirt know, I was prepared for just such an occasion. I always kept a fully charged 300uF, 450 volt electrolytic capacitor on the shelf above my operating position. I knew exactly where it was, even in the dark. I also knew where my industrial strength shorting stick was.

I whispered in the darkness. "Shh....do you hear that?"

"No. What?" Squirt answered, nervously.

"Listen very carefully." I brought my shorting stick to the terminals of the capacitor and ker- BANG!! A shot like an M-80 rang out as the blue white arc lit up the room for a fraction of a second, just long enough for me to see Squirt's horrified expression before he passed out cold onto the floor with a thud.

Squirt doesn't come to visit much any more...I'm not sure exactly why. He's probably too busy conducting safety seminars or something like that.

Well, there's always another young ham around the bend, I figure.



The Buddy Pole

A few more of K3VX's photos from W3WH FUL/FAY



The Water Source

Announcing the Fifteenth Annual WASH 2Meter Contest!

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

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

Please review this year's rules carefully. After evaluating feedback from participants the last two years, **we made some changes and additions last year** that we hope will really generate some interest! There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 10th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 10th, 2015 from 7 to 11 PM EST.
(That's January 11th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

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

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

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.505 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.450 to 147.580 MHz**. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB & AM**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan).
- **Digital (including RTTY)**: 144.51 to 144.55 MHz. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan) Multiple digital modes may be used, and participants are free to use any generally accepted Digital mode, but only ONE Digital QSO with a given station regardless of mode

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

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

→ *Listen for Digital QSO's around 144.51 MHz 45 minutes after the hour*

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

Power Limit: Maximum 100 watts output.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

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

Example 1: "N3ZCG from W8XK, please copy Number 3, 15347."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Multipliers: Locations (Number of different ZIP Codes)

Power: Stations running 10 watts output or less: 3

Stations running over 10 up to 30 watts output: 2

Stations running over 30 watts output: 1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

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

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

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Ron Notarius W3WN
3395 Rosewood Drive
Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 1st, 2015

Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to WASHFest 2015 on February 22nd

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

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

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



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS HOLIDAY PARTY

January 9, 2015
6:30 P.M.

Peter's Place

1199 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Cost is \$25 per person

Full service dinner

Cash Bar

Checks payable to:

Wireless Association of South Hills.

RSVP to Jan Bell @ 724-825-1280 or
janbell@dbs2-llc.com

RSVP deadline
December 29th 2014

Navassa KP1: January 2015

The KP1-5 Project <http://www.kp1-5.com>

October 22nd, 2014 — The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has notified the KP1-5 Project that they will be the team to activate Navassa Island (KP1) in January 2015.

The DXpedition will be a maximum of fourteen days. The exact dates in January will be determined by USFWS mission requirements and weather windows.

Our experienced team of fifteen is complete and is ready for the challenge. The weeks ahead will be extremely busy as the team has less than 90 days before the DXpedition comes on the air.

January is the month of minimum bird nesting activity and this is the primary reason USFWS is asking that the operation be completed during that month. However, the weather is unpredictable in January and because Navassa is surrounded by cliffs, this may preclude a safe landing by boat. For safety reasons and in order to maximize our time on the Island and on the air, a helicopter operation is planned. Navassa is over 100 miles (160 km) from the nearest helicopter staging point and as many as ten round trips will be required at the beginning and end of the operation. Obviously, this means that there will be a significant cost for activating this #1 ranked DXCC entity.

In the next few weeks, we be working with USFWS and as details firm up, we will issue periodic press releases. Check our webpage, <http://www.kp1-5.com> for more details of the operation and how you may financially support this DXpedition.

The KP1-5 Project team has committed to fund 50% of the total costs. We are hopeful the DX community at large will fund the remainder.

For The KP1-5 Project: Bob Allphin K4UEE, President
Glenn Johnson WØGJ, Vice President
Mike Thomas NA5U, Secretary

Additional information can be found at www.navassadx.com. The web site indicates that the call used will be K1N.

Our Plans: The camp will consist of three specific locations as shown in the following photograph. These are:

- 1) the Landing/Resupply Point which is what is referred to as Lulu Bay,
- 2) the Transition Route which will utilize the abandoned railroad track route and
- 3) the Area of Operation which will be in the general area of the lighthouse.



DX News Briefs



ON4WW has been granted permission by the Norwegian Polar Institute to land and reside on **3Y Bouvet Island** during the mid-January until mid-April 2016 time frame.

This will be a ham radio DXpedition with the sole purpose of providing worldwide contacts with Bouvet Island, currently ranked #3 on the different DXCC Most Wanted Lists (note: Bouvet will move up to #2 after Navassa has been activated in 2015).

Whether or not this DXpedition will take place depends on the next big hurdle, funding. A webpage providing background information and full details including the funding approach is available at www.on4ww.be/bouvet2016.html

In regard to Bouvet, contact ON4WW via the following e-mail address: bouvet2016@telenet.be — ON4WW

A team of 10 operators from the Rockall DX Group are planning an IOTA DXpedition as **EP6T** from AS-166 in Iran for about 10 days at the end of January 2015. 160—10 meters SSB, CW & RTTY modes are planned. The group also plans to conduct Amateur Radio exams while in Iran. Exact dates and more information will be available online at <http://www.rockall.be/> or via email EP6T@rockall.be QSL will be MØURX. Logs will be uploaded to Logbook of the World after the DXpedition concludes — MMØNDX

The **ZD9TT** DXpedition, originally planned for September 2014 and later postponed to September 2015 because of transportation problems, has been **cancelled**. — DX World

DL4WO will be QRV as **PZ5JW** 15 November—15 January on all HF bands. QSL via DL4WO — DL4WO, DX World

KMØO will be active from **3W3O** 25 November—24 December 24, including activity during the CQ WW CW contest. QSL via KMØO, LoTW uploads as soon as possible — KMØO, DX World

VK6MH/GM4AWB has had to cancel his operation as **VKØMH** from Macquarie Island due to serious health issues. He is expected to make a full recovery — DX World

IKØFUX will be active as **8Q7UX** December 1-9, 2014, Holiday style on all HF bands. QSL via IKØFUX — DX World

"My name is Tejaswita Kharel and I'm the youngest Ham Radio Operator in Nepal. I'm doing my A Levels course at Rato Bangala School, Patan, Nepal. My father is the first native Ham Radio Operator in Nepal. His call sign in **9N1AA**. My mother too is a Ham Radio operator, she is one of the first YL operators of Nepal. I am improving my Morse code skills.

I was very keen to learn about Ham Radio since my childhood, I always observed RTTY QSOs of my dad. So, I am more comfortable with digital modes." — 88 DE **9N1DX**

QSL Routes

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3DAØET via N7RO — LU2DKN | HR2WW via KD4POJ — HR2DMR |
| 3D2RA via LZ2HM — JA1HGY | HT5T via YN4SU — W3UR |
| 3D2TR via K8AQM — JA1HGY | JW9JKA via LA9JKA — LU2DKN |
| 4K9C via PA3EPG — N5UR | KH2L via W3HNK — W3HNK |
| 4X2M via 4X4DZ — KB8NW | LB6B via LA3WU — KB8NW |
| 5B4AJC via UA3DX — LU2DKN | LX7I via LX2A — LX2A |
| 5R8UI via IZ8CCW — WØWSP | P4ØL via WA3FRP — KB8NW |
| 7Z1SJ via EA7FTR — W3UR | P4ØNW via K9NW — K9NW |
| 9L1A via 9A2AA — LU2DKN | PJ4X via W1MD — W1MD |
| A35CO via K8ESQ — JA1HGY | S21ZBC via IK2VUC — LU2DKN |
| A35TR via K8AQM — JA1HGY | T32RC via N7RO — LU2DKN |
| C37NL via C37URA — KB8NW | TF3EO via G3SWH — G3SWH |
| C5S via ON6EG — KB8NW | TT8ES via IK3GES — LU2DKN |
| C6AUM via K4RUM — LU2DKN | UK8IF via RW6HS — W2IRT |
| E51RAT via NI5DX — KL7SB | XT26DJ via OK6DJ — LU2DKN |
| EF8X via W2GR — EA8AY | ZK3T via DJ2EH — 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

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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

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The **RACE** and **GOMX-2** CubeSats were among more than 2 dozen satellites lost after an unmanned Orbital Space Sciences (OSC) Antares 130 vehicle exploded spectacularly shortly after launch at 2222 UTC on Tuesday, October 28th, from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport on Wallops Island on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Both satellite packages carried Amateur Radio payloads. The Antares is a new medium-class launch vehicle developed by OSC. The rocket exploded about 6 seconds after launch, sending a huge ball of fire hurtling toward the ground, which set a massive fire at the NASA launch site.

The RACE (Radiometer Atmospheric Cubesat Experiment) CubeSat was a joint project between The Texas Spacecraft Laboratory (**TSL**) at the University of Texas-Austin and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Built by a 30-student team, it carried a 183 GHz radiometer, a new science instrument designed by JPL. The spacecraft was equipped to transmit using GMSK at 38.4 k and CW telemetry on a downlink frequency of 437.525MHz.

TSL's Glenn Lightsey, KE5DDG, a UT engineering professor, oversaw the student project that worked hand-in-hand with NASA staff in creating a satellite that aimed to measure water vapor in Earth's atmosphere.

"It's unfortunate, but it is also part of the aerospace industry," Lightsey **told** the *Texas Statesman* newspaper. "The nature of building space vehicles is that it is not a 100 percent reliable process. Getting into space is really the hardest part."

The 2U GOMX-2 CubeSat was intended to test a de-orbit system designed by Aalborg University in Denmark. Karl Klaus Laursen, OZ2KK, is listed as the "responsible operator" on International Amateur Radio Union frequency coordination documents. The Amateur Radio payload proposed using a 9.6 k MSK data downlink on 437.250 MHz. Also on board was an optical communications experiment from the National University of Singapore. The mission also aimed to flight qualify a new high-speed UHF transceiver and SDR receiver built by an Aalborg University team.

The Antares 130 launcher was on a resupply mission, carrying some 5000 pounds of cargo to the International Space Station.

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 1st, 2014 — The ARRL is taking issue with the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) stance of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (**NTIA**) with respect to an upgraded 60 meter Amateur Radio allocation. In response to WRC-15 agenda item 1.4, the NTIA has called for no change at 5250-5450 kHz. The League said in **comments** filed September 24 in IB Docket 04-286 that while it concurs with the NTIA's view regarding 5250 to 5275 kHz — allocated to the radiolocation service for oceanographic applications at WRC-12 — the rest of the agency's proposal is "unsupportable in light of actual domestic and international practice and contains assertions of incompatibility that are demonstrably not correct." The US has authorized Amateur Radio secondary operation on five discrete channels in the 5275-5450 kHz range for more than a decade, the ARRL pointed out, with no instances of unresolved interference to primary users.

"Against this backdrop, the stated reason for the no-change proposal — that '[e]xperience has shown that sharing is not possible between the Amateur Service and the fixed and mobile service' — fails the straight-face test," the ARRL said in its comments.

The NTIA's position is at odds with the proposal for agenda item 1.4 previously adopted by the FCC's WRC-15 Advisory Committee (WAC). In January, the WAC recommended a secondary allocation to the Amateur Radio Service from 5275-5450 kHz, and the FCC indicated in a subsequent *Public Notice* that it could generally support this recommendation.

The League called the NTIA's position "particularly puzzling" given the position of federal agencies, for which the NTIA manages spectrum, to allow what the ARRL called, "a more disruptive service (radiolocation) in the identical frequency range under consideration here less than three years ago."

"Neither NTIA nor its constituent federal agencies have credibly or persuasively articulated why fixed and mobile systems in the 5250-5450 kHz range can withstand the demonstrated potential for interference from automated, wideband, HF oceanographic radars, but cannot withstand operation by trained, licensed operators using smaller bandwidths, actually monitoring the spectrum to be used before and during a transmission, and with the capability to shift frequency immediately to avoid incidents of interference with a primary service," the ARRL commented.

The League asserted that the Amateur Service deserves "the same treatment" that NTIA proposed for HF radiolocation less than 3 years ago. "Proponents of a different treatment, particularly a channelized treatment or a no-change approach, have still not presented a compelling distinction between amateur operation and radiolocation that would justify a departure from the general policy followed by the United States at WRC-12," the ARRL concluded.

The next World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) will take place in Germany in 2018. The WRTC Sanctioning Committee **announced** October 5 that it had granted the application of a group representing the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), the Bavarian Contest Club (BCC), and the Rhein Ruhr DX Association (RRDXA) to organize what are often called "the Olympics of Amateur Radio."

"The German application was very well prepared and, knowing their experience, we all expect another outstanding meeting and competition among world's best testers," WRTC Sanctioning Committee Chairman Tine Brajnik S5ØA, said in a post to the CQ Contest reflector. He added that the committee would be making public information regarding the qualifying process. It is not known if the committee considered any other applications.

Last year, as preparations were still underway for WRTC-2014, the WRTC Sanctioning Committee put out a call for WRTC-2018 sponsors, noting the importance of giving the contesting community "as much time as possible to prepare for each event." The Sanctioning Committee evaluates requests to host a WRTC and selects the winning applicant.

A World Radiosport Team Championship features approximately 50 two-person Amateur Radio teams competing in a test of operating skill. The event takes place concurrent with the **IARU HF Championship** in July, although WRTC rules vary from those of the IARU event. All stations use identical antennas and power level and operate from equivalent sites in the same geographical region in an effort to eliminate all variables except operating ability. WRTC-2014 included 59 competing teams from 29 qualifying regions around the world.

— Courtesy of the Daily DX via the American Radio Relay League

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



WASHfest 2015

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

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1st Prize: Kenwood TS-590S 100 W HF/6M Transceiver

2nd Prize: LDG AT-200 Pro 2 Antenna Tuner

3rd Prize: Jetstream JT-270M V/UHF Mobile

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

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All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2015. Reservations received after February 1st, 2015 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance five years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

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Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

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Please make all checks payable to:
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PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
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We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2015



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 2015 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:

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c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
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Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

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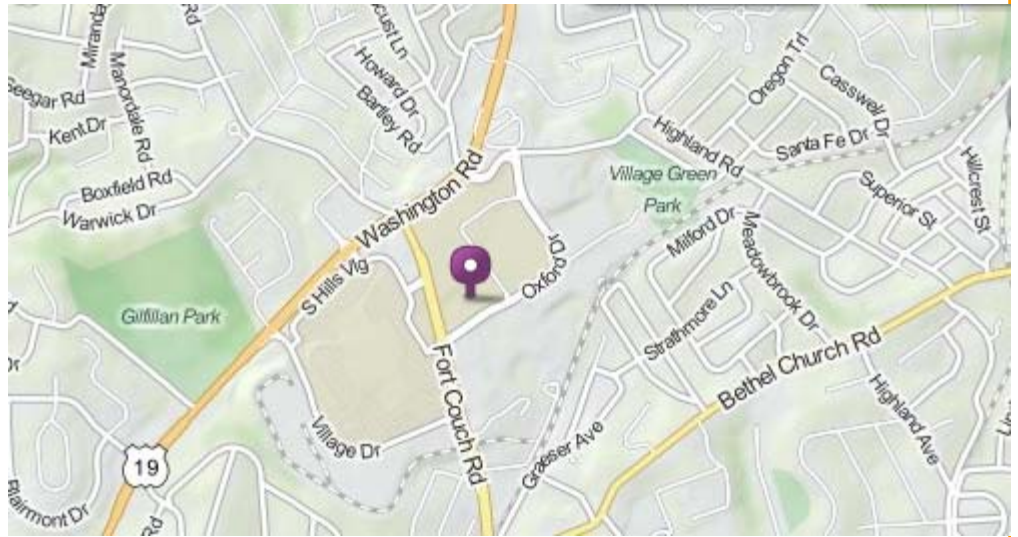
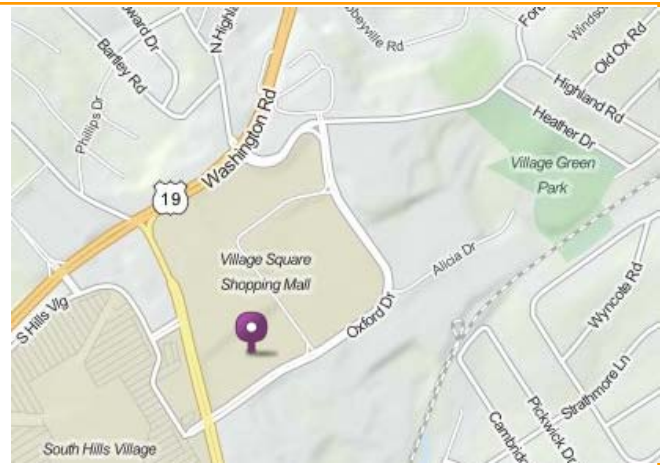


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