



WASHRAGTM

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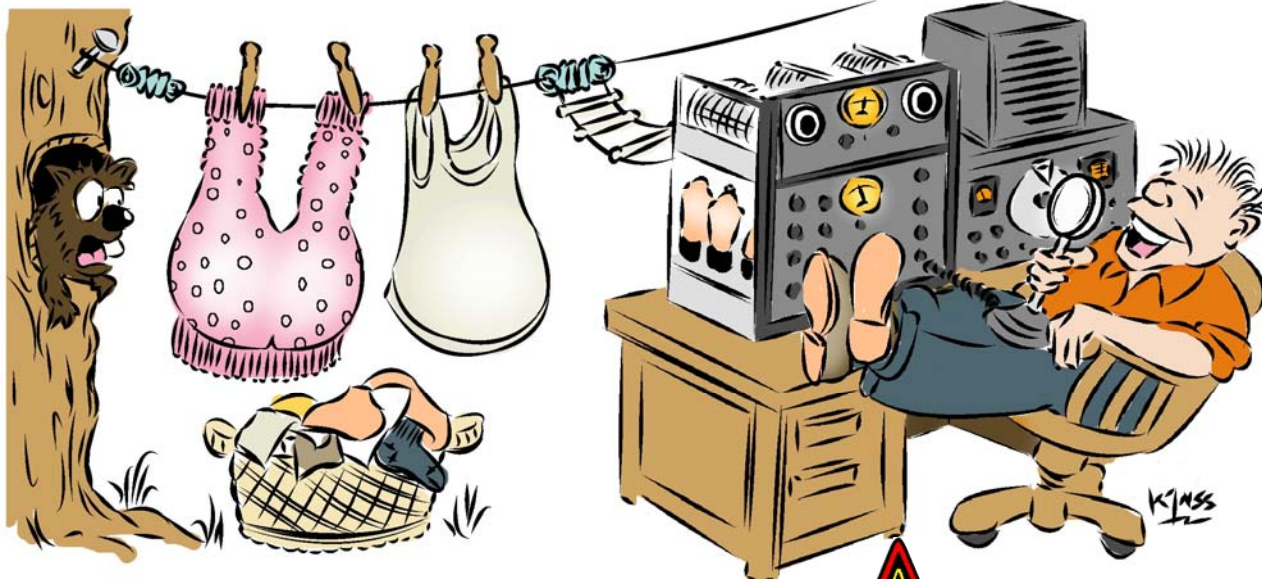


VOLUME 17 ISSUE 01
JANUARY 2015

Wireless Association of South Hills



NEW ONE



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 01

JANUARY 2015

Next Monthly Meeting: **Wednesday, January 7th, 2015**

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Wednesday, January 7th 2015**, 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's topics include **WASHFest 2015**, the 2 meter simplex contest, FLDigi programming and more. See you there!

Cover Illustration: Here's hoping that you got everything you dreamed of for the holidays, just like *Dash The Dog Faced Ham*. This is one of many pieces of artwork that are available from Dashtoons by Jeff K1NSS; many more can be found (and ordered, we recommend it!) at <http://www.dashtoons.com/>.

Illustration courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Jeff D. Murray K1NSS

WASH 2015 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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e-mail: **newsletter at n3sh dot org or w3wn at arrl dot net**

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

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

As always, special thanks to the owners & 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

2014 was a good year for the club. 2015 will be even better!

We will be celebrating our 20th year hosting **WASHFest**, our Hamfest. With everyone's help it should go smoothly. The prizes and door prizes are done. Now we just have to work on filling the tables.

I hope every one had a nice Christmas and a Happy New year. Hope Santa brought you what you wanted for Christmas.

Looking forward to seeing all who will attend the our Holiday Dinner. Remember our 2 meter contest is this Saturday, January 10th. I will be there. See you at the meeting this Wednesday.

Stay warm!

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b



Glen KE7FD has announced a small alteration to our weekly FM net.

Starting this year, the 3rd Sunday of every month is designated as a Digital Net to enable club members to practice FLDIGI and other digital modes and means of operation.

The net preamble has also been updated. Glen asks that everyone review the updated preamble on the club web site, so that you're familiar with it should you have to be a net control one upcoming Sunday evening!

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 most of the year. Complete 2015 scheduling has been posted on the **WASH** Web Site <http://www.n3sh.org>

Ye Editor missed the last meeting of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** for 2014... he was busy having Cheerios with his grandchildren. So our thanks to Jim WB4GCS for the info on the turnout on Saturday, December 27th at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. In attendance this month were WB4GCS, KC4WTT, N1NCZ "+3," N3FB, KB3GMU, K3VX, N3IDH and KB3JHR. Topics of discussion included the ICOM IC-706 and IC-7100; external DSP on analog radios, particularly during contests; Santa's gifts; Grandkids' Christmas; Oglebay Glass museums; the January **WASH** Holiday Party & 2m Simplex contest; Tower lowering and quad antennas; Nike sites; 50 years ago and now; Hunters and hunting. "It was nice to have a good group and diverse conversation!"

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, January 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, so that Suzie & her crew will have enough space available for us. See you there?

Because of New Year's Day and room availability, remember that the January Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7th.

Rick KB3IAC wants everyone to know that **"We will be making a program change for our club meeting** for this Wednesday. **We will be performing configurations and live tests of Fldigi** for those of you who wish to start using this digital mode. This will be a "Hands-On" workshop. So if you want to get started or want to get refreshed bring your lap-top and a hand-held radio. If you have a portable or mobile set-up that you use then bring it. We will make sure everyone has the latest Fldigi & Flmsg software and get the applications configured correctly. You can use your hand-held or a radio with an interface. Bring whatever you prefer but make sure you bring all of your components. I'll have one battery with power pole connections."

Don't forget that our **annual end-of-season Christmas/Holiday Party** is coming up. Details on Page 11. If you're going, don't forget to RSVP to Jan KB3IVX — ASAP!

Our **annual 2 Meter Simplex Contest** is a touch over a month away! Now is the time to spread the word. It's a fun little four hour event, the more the merrier!

How time flies! **WASHFest 2015**, our **20th annual hamfest**, is a touch under 3 months away. Twenty years... almost hard to believe. Carol has some plans to make WF20 really special. In the meantime, though, don't forget that we need everyone's help to pull the event off. Talk to Carol and see what you can do to lend a hand!

WASHNet 2015 NCS Schedule

01/04/2015	Bill W3WH	03/01/2015	Harold K3HCR
01/11/2015	Bob AB3ED	03/08/2015	Larry K3VX
01/18/2015	Digital Night	03/15/2015	Digital Night
01/25/2015	Carol KB3GMN	03/22/2015	Rick KB3IAC
02/01/2015	Dave N3DFK	03/29/2015	Bill W3WH
02/08/2015	Fred KB3DCO	04/05/2015	Bob AB3ED
02/15/2015	Digital Night	04/12/2015	Carol KB3GMN
02/22/2015	Glen KE7FD	04/19/2015	Digital Night

Join WASH or Renew your Membership for 2015 Today! Membership Application on Page 15!

Minutes, December 4th Meeting

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

President Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:15 hours. 12 members and guests were 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 Frank N3FB, second by Gene KB3JHR, passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

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

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No report

VE (W3WN via KB3GMN): Next VE session will be at **WASHFest** 2015.

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeaters are repeating. The 440 shack is still "sad" & in need of major work.

Repeater Relocation Committee(KB3IAC): We have obtained the new controller, it is being programmed. Not much progress expected prior to the 1st of the year, weather and holidays permitting.

WASHNet (KE7FD): No report.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): Club simplex contest is coming in January. Please talk it up! ARRL 160 Meter and 10 meter contests in early December.

Public Service (N3RDV): A short discussion on participation in the Allegheny County ARES/RACES net.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): 50/50 tonight

Newsletter (W3WN): No report.

President (KB3GMN): Holiday Part on January 9th 2015 at Peter's Place; Jan needs to hear from more people! Cost of the room will be \$75 unless we have a minimum of 30 people attending. Checks to be sent to Mark N3RDV.

Short discussion on raising club dues to \$25 per year. (Dues have never been raised since the club started.) It was noted that the Annual Dues are set in the by-laws, and it takes of quorum of the paid membership to change them, so no formal action was taken following the discussion.

WASHFest 2015 (KB3GMN):

- Further discussion of pros & cons of various aspects of the hamfest, including concerns over vendors.
- Major & long discussion on the issues of the kitchen and catering. Concerns raised about regarding helping the kitchen. Carol will talk again with Jack and offer him help. Concerns were also raised that Jack may not appreciate the offers of help.
- Several members indicated they would ask their spouses or children to come and help in the kitchen.
- We will need people to work the door, sell 50/50 tickets, sell tickets at the club table, and to make coffee throughout the morning.
- Clarification that due to past abuse, each table sold will include one (1) vendor arm band; that is, one vendor arm band per table. Additional people at each table must pay admission — they will get a vendor arm band, however.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Good of the Order:

- Reminder that due to holidays & scheduling, our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 7th.
- K3VX brought a USB to RS-232 interface to give away.

Motion to Adjourn by Gene KB3JHR,, second by Rick KB3IACand carried.

Meeting adjourned 20:17.

After a short recess, and the 50/50 drawing, the ongoing Arduino/Raspberry Pi workshop & related projects continued.



WASH Spotlight: FD 2015



Rick KB3IAC reports that he is "Ready for Field Day 2015"

Amazing what Santa leaves some people under the Christmas Tree, isn't it?

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Rick Bell KB3IAC & Jan Bell KB3IVX

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

2015	AC4KU	KE7FD	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent Keys
AB3NM	AE3DL	KJ3D	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW	
K3HCR	KØLIN	N1NCZ	W4ZE	WASH SC	AB3KA
K3VX	K3AIR	N2QIV	WASH GA	N3RNK	K3EED
KB3DCO	K3GW	N3BPB	K3OL	WASH TN	K3LIE
KB3GMN	K3JDS	N3DFK	KB3IJX	KE3XB	KA3NMG
KB3GMU	K3LGM	N3IDH	WASH NE	N3YPB	KB3ENX
KB3IAC	K3SGT	N3NWR	NØPEU	WASH TX	KB3FNM
KB3IVX	KA3ANU	N3OVO	WASH OR	K3LGM	KB3FQT
KB3JHR	KA3RXY	N3RDV	NØVLR	Jane Wagner	N3FZ
KC4WTT	KA3TWI	N3RHT	NØWPV	WASH VI	N3HKQ
N3FB	KB3ERQ	W3LE	KB3NVL	NP2JF	N3KEH
N3SBF	KB3GMP	W3RWS	KB3NVM		N3OBD
W3VFA	KB3PSB	W3WH			N3SKR
WB4GCS	KB3WZT	W3WN			N3SRC
	KB3YCX	W4CKR			N3ZEL
2014	KB3YKL	Darryn Sleeman			N3XFE
AB3ED	KC3ANX				W3ZLK
AB3EN	KC3BQI				WA3JPP
AB3PJ					

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

Through January 2nd, 2015
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2015 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

January 7 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
January 9 th	WASH Annual End-of-Season Holiday Party	Peter's Place, Bridgeville PA RSVP to Jan KB3IVX by December 29 th
January 10 th	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
February 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
February 21 st & 22 nd	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 22 nd	20th Annual WASHFest 2015	Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall Library Rd, Route 88, Castle Shannon
February 27 th — March 1 st	CQ 160 Meter Contest SSB	http://www.cq160.com/
March 7 th —8 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 12 th	WASH Meeting (Pizza Night!)	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
March 27 th —28 th	CQ WPX Contest SSB	http://www.cqwpw.com/
April 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 12 th	2 Rivers ARC Hamfest	http://www.trarc.net
May 7 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 15 th —17 th	Dayton Hamvention	http://www.hamvention.org/
June 7 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org
June 8 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park



DX Engineering Acquires Butternut

On December 5th, 2014, a Press Release from DX Engineering's General Manager & Chief Operating Officer, Tim Duffy K3LR, announced that DXE had acquired the Butternut, Skylark, and Skyhawk antenna lines from Bencher Electronics.

"In a move that will delight Ham Radio enthusiasts, DX Engineering welcomes Bencher's Skyhawk and Skylark Antennas, plus Butternut Antennas to its exclusive family of brands. For years, Amateur Radio operators have relied on Bencher Antennas and Butternut Antennas for both HF contesting and DXing. Now, the Skyhawk and Skylark antennas, as well as every Butternut antenna model, will be manufactured and sold exclusively by DX Engineering. DX Engineering also carries all the service, repair, and replacement parts required to keep these antennas in good operating condition."

The acquisition does not include other Bencher product lines, including keys and filters.

Bencher acquired the former Butternut Electronics Company on the retirement of founder Don Newcomb WØDN (SK) in the 1990's.



"Seen" at the December Meeting

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2014 Ron Notarius W3WN

**K3HCR, K3VX, N3SBF****N1NCZ, KB3IAC, K3VX, KB3DCO, KB3JHR, N3FB****KB3GMN, N3RDV, KB3YCX, K3VX, KB3DCO, K3HCR****KB3GMN, N3RDV****KB3YCX, K3VX****KB3IAC****N3FB****N1NCZ**

Reflections on the ARRL Centennial Operating Event Jerry Boyd N7WR

When the ARRL announced its year long on the air operating event to celebrate the League's 100 years of service to the amateur radio community it was clear to me that the W100AW and W1AW/portable stations would attract a great deal of interest. I also thought that with individual amateurs holding ARRL Field Organization positions their ability to give out points would also attract a crowd.

As a past Section Manager I noted that each contact I gave out would give the other station 100 points towards the various levels of operating achievement awards the League was sponsoring. The ARRL President, Division Directors and current Section Manager contacts were worth more points but 100 was a pretty attractive number.

For me, since we own a small ranch and have many other commitments, the only real period when I can guarantee operating time is from mid October until mid March. Since the Centennial would end on December 31st I decided that the period from October 15th through the middle of December 2014 would be when I would concentrate my operating efforts.

I did work, as time was available, other Centennial stations prior to October 15th and evenly distributed my contacts between SSB and CW. My intent from October 15th on, however, was to work SSB only unless someone requested a CW contact and to do it "run" style as if operating in a DX contest. I set an arbitrary but somewhat ambitious goal of handing out 10,000 contacts (a million points worth) in the two months I would dedicate to the effort. I actually reached the 10,000 QSO mark by December 8th and backed off the effort some until December 15th finishing with just under 11,000 Centennial QSO's.

I might add that I had no interest in applying for any of the Centennial awards myself. My downsized hamshack has more than enough wallpaper. Assisting others in reaching their goal was my objective. It was a very enjoyable experience and one I would willingly repeat. I worked all bands 10 through 80 meters (with the exception of 30 meters) and a number of hams worked me on all seven bands. Hundreds of others worked my station on multiple bands. It was almost like I developed personal friendships with some of the hams I worked as they neared a seven band clean sweep with my station. I operated in the General portion of each band so as to give the maximum opportunity to hams regardless of license class. In the case of 10 meters I stayed in the 28300-28500 window for Techs and, yes, even Novices who have privileges there. I should add that according to the database several Novices did work me proving that there are still a few licensed in a no longer issued class that are active.

My "run style" operating yielded many 200+ QSO hours and seldom any hours of less than 100 Q's. Those lower rate hours were on 40 and 80 and probably due to the fact that my antennas on those bands are not optimum. The high run rates were beneficial to me in terms of keeping up my skills for those times I walk next door and operate from the NK7U mega station in major DX contests.

To say that I was positively impressed with the pileup operating habits of my fellow amateurs (of all license classes) would be an understatement. I ran fast with clear directions as to my expectations and those expectations were met. When I asked, on 10 and 12 meters, for stations to stand by while I listened for 6's and 7's on back scatter or for DX outside the USA those requests were followed 99% of the time even when the pileups were huge. When I ask for the "station with Whisky Charlie in the call" that's what I got, not five other stations with phonetics nowhere near Whisky Charlie. When I asked for stations to use full calls rather than the last two letters that is what I got. Tail ending was done but those who did it seemed very practiced at it.



It was a pleasure giving out 100 points nearly 11,000 times and many thanked me for the effort. I need to make it clear, however, that I got as much if not more enjoyment out of this operating event than those who worked me did and it restored my faith in the operating practices of a large number of today's amateurs. I hope the League finds a way to create additional operating events like this one in the future.

My band by band QSO totals from rural Northeast Oregon were as follows

80 Meters	607	QSOs
40 Meters	767	QSOs
20 Meters	3001	QSOs
17 Meters	1787	QSOs
15 Meters	1654	QSOs
12 Meters	1945	QSOs
10 Meters	1145	QSOs

I was a Novice in 1965-66 and enjoyed the hell out of it. Operated 40 CW mostly, but a bit of 15 CW and 2M AM!

I don't recall "best DX," but do recall 4U1ITU in Geneva being my first real DX contact (I won't count Canada or Mexico, or even Cuba or Bahamas -- they're kinda too close). And they QSL'd almost immediately. When I discovered 15m late in my Novice career just before upgrading, I did work quite a lot of DX on that band, but always remember the "first."

But notable: On 40 CW one of my very first contacts as a Novice was W8GZ, Windy. Also remember Bill W6DBB in CA as not only my first CA contact (I was in NJ) on 40m, but also for his amazing fist and willingness to hang out in the "Novice bands," working Novices every single day even though this was a guy who could send and copy 50 wpm easily -- using a bug.

On 2m AM (using a borrowed Gonset!) I worked Carl W2AZL, one of the pioneer E-M-E guys -- he lived only 30 miles away or so, so not exactly DX, but he was an amazing guy. When I became interested in serious 2m weak-signal work, he volunteered, "If you can come down here, I'll give you a great low-noise preamp" and he did...my father drove me down to Holmdel and Carl gave me one of his 416B tube preamps for 2m, noise figure about 1 dB, built and tuned by him. He had several of them.

It was a spectacular time and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

— 73, Steve Katz WB2WIK/6

I was first licensed as a Novice in the Fall of 1969 (WN9CMU) when I was 14. My original equipment was a homebrew 6L6 transmitter running 45w, a Lafayette HE-80 receiver, a 40m inverted "V" up about 30 feet, and a surplus J-38 key. My first QSO from our house in Indiana was a fellow Novice in Missouri. This was a distance of about 400 miles, which was very exciting.

I got a Heathkit DX-60B that year for Christmas and then switched over to that after it was finished. Mostly worked hams around the midwest on 40m cw, looking back they were all within about a 600 mile radius. The only foreign station I worked as a Novice was a VE3 in Ontario.

I upgraded to General in April 1970 and my ticket arrived just in time for Field Day that year.

I still have my Novice gear but it hasn't been powered up for many years.

Being a Novice was a lot of fun and a good learning experience. By today's standards I guess it seems rather tame now but at that time and at the age of 14 it was really exciting.

I'll tell you a story from when I built my Heathkit DX-60B. After I unpacked the kit, I started building on it a little each night, then would head off to bed. My bedroom was next door to our workshop room and my Dad (WA9LFA(SK), an engineer and a ham) would stay up and work a little longer, then turn in too. I would hear him working away in there using his soldering gun (it made a distinctive clicking sound). Also, once in a while I would hear him groan quietly and solder some more. At the time I just assumed he was working on one of his own projects, because he was a homebrewer and liked to build things too.

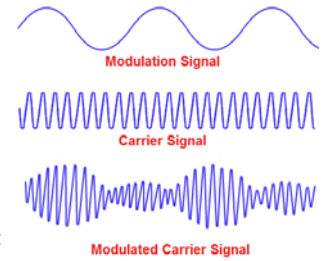
It wasn't until years later that it occurred to me that he had been checking over my work, touching up any cold solder joints and fixing up the occasional mistake (I think those were what caused the groans :-). Needless to say, my DX-60B worked right the first time!

— 73, Jeff Shields N9CZA



An Urban Legend... Debunked

Jim Miccolis N2EY



Since the 1940s, radio amateurs using SSB on the HF amateur bands have generally followed a standard or tradition about which sideband to use. The almost-universal practice is that lower sideband (LSB) is used on 160, 75 and 40, while upper sideband (USB) is used on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10. And almost as long as that, hams have asked: Where did this practice/tradition originate?

First, a bit of history:

Back in the late 1940s and early 1950s the HF amateur 'phone bands available to US hams were somewhat different than today:

- 160 had been a popular pre-WW2 band, but was full of LORAN and was only available to US hams in a very limited way.
- 40 was all-CW - no phone operation permitted to US hams at all.
- 15 did not become a ham band until about 1954.
- 30, 17 and 12 meters did not become ham bands until 1979 or later.
- This left 75, 20, 11 and 10 meters for 'phone operation. (11 was a ham band in the USA until 1958). Of those, 75 and 20 were the most popular for 'phone operation - and the most crowded.

So it was on 75 and 20 that amateurs first began using SSB in considerable numbers, and there were various schemes used to generate SSB on those two bands.

One popular method was to generate the SSB at about 9 MHz, and then mix the 9 MHz SSB signal with the output of a VFO in the 5.0 to 5.5 MHz range. Subtractive mixing would produce 75 meter output, while additive mixing would give 20 meter output. Like this:

For 20 meters: $9000 \text{ kHz} + 5000 \text{ kHz} = 14000 \text{ kHz}$ $9000 \text{ kHz} + 5500 \text{ kHz} = 14500 \text{ kHz}$
 For 75/80 meters: $9000 \text{ kHz} - 5000 \text{ kHz} = 4000 \text{ kHz}$ $9000 \text{ kHz} - 5500 \text{ kHz} = 3500 \text{ kHz}$

The 9 MHz SSB could be generated by the filter or phasing method, with a highly-stable VFO in the 5 MHz range, and the only thing you needed to do to switch bands was to change the tuned circuits in the output of the transmitting mixer and following RF amplifier stages. The VFO tunes "backwards" on 75, but that's no big deal if you mark the dial.

Now for the urban legend:

Some folks say that the above system inverts the sideband on one band but not the other, and so gave rise to the LSB-on-75/USB-on-20 tradition. They point to many old rigs which use the scheme as proof. Sometimes a specific rig is named as the origin.

It's a nice story but it's not true - because it cannot be true. Heterodyning doesn't work that way. In order to invert the sideband, the local oscillator - the one used for conversion - must be higher in frequency than either the input or output signals.

Here's a simple explanation of the mixing scheme:

For 20 meters, you generate USB at 9 MHz, the carrier is at 9 MHz and the sideband is on the upper side of 9 MHz. Add 5 MHz and the carrier will be at 14 MHz and the sideband will be on the upper side of 14 MHz, because all you did was add 5 MHz to every frequency in the signal. No sideband inversion.

For 75 meters, you generate USB at 9 MHz, the carrier is at 9 MHz and the sideband is on the upper side of 9 MHz. Subtract 5 MHz and the carrier will be at 4 MHz and the sideband will be on the upper side of 4 MHz, because all you did was subtract 5 MHz from every frequency in the signal.

That's how it works. No sideband inversion from a 9 MHz SSB generator and 5 MHz VFO. The USB/LSB thing came from elsewhere. The myth lives on because too many hams repeat it without checking the math, nor actual sources of info.

Not convinced? Here it is in more detail:

Suppose we generate a USB signal that is 3 kHz wide, with the carrier at 9000 kHz. The signal will then consist of the (suppressed) carrier at 9000 kHz, and the upper sideband extending from 9000 to 9003 kHz.

To put the signal on 20 meters, we add the output of a VFO at, say, 5000 kHz, to the SSB signal.

$9000 + 5000 = 14000$ (suppressed carrier and one end of sideband) $9003 + 5000 = 14003$ (other end of sideband)

What we have is an upper sideband signal - the suppressed carrier is at 14000 kHz and the sideband is above that frequency, extending to 14003 kHz. USB in gives USB out.

To put the signal on 75 meters, we use subtractive mixing:

$9000 - 5000 = 4000$ (suppressed carrier and one end of sideband) $9003 - 5000 = 4003$ (other end of sideband)

What we have is still an upper sideband signal - the suppressed carrier is at 4000 kHz and the sideband is above that frequency, extending to 4003 kHz.

USB in gives USB out - on both bands! No fancy math, just plain old addition and subtraction. Try it with LSB - you get the same sideband out as you started with. No inversion.

So....where did the tradition come from?

It turns out that, at the dawn of SSB use by amateurs, there were rigs built which used an SSB generator at around 5 MHz and a VFO around 9 MHz - the opposite of the above system. Because the VFO is the highest frequency on 75 but not 20, the sideband inverts on 75 but not 20. I have been told, but have not confirmed, that this derived from early *commercial* use of SSB.

Here's proof:

Suppose we generate a USB signal that is 3 kHz wide, with the carrier at 5000 kHz. The signal will then consist of the (suppressed) carrier at 5000 kHz, and the upper sideband extending from 5000 to 5003 kHz.

To put the signal on 20 meters, we add the output of a VFO at, say, 9000 kHz, to the SSB signal.

$5000 + 9000 = 14000$ (suppressed carrier and one end of sideband) $5003 + 9000 = 14003$ (other end of sideband)

What we have is an upper sideband signal - the suppressed carrier is at 14000 kHz and the sideband is above that frequency, extending to 14003 kHz. USB in gives USB out.

To put the signal on 75 meters, we do subtractive mixing instead of additive:.

$5000 - 9000 = 4000$ (suppressed carrier and one end of sideband) $5003 - 9000 = 3997$ (other end of sideband)

What we have is a lower sideband signal - the suppressed carrier is at 4000 kHz and the sideband is below that frequency, extending to 3997 kHz. USB in gives USB out on 20, but LSB out on 75!

No fancy math, just plain old addition and subtraction.

Triton IV and the Hi-Per-Mite Filter

Bill Allen WØWCA

Last month, I decided that I must have a Ten Tec Triton IV. I don't know why I decided this but there are many things in my life that probably want explaining. To this end, I am envious of W. Nelson who "has a long list of real good reasons for all the things I've done". But I digress.

I found my Triton IV on QRZ.com, sent some money and in about ten days, here she came. My Triton IV was labeled Model 540; same radio just a different label; long story. (*Motorola sued Ten-Tec over the name, so Ten-Tec dropped it but kept the model number the same. — editor*) The radio was actually in pretty decent shape; a bit dirty (the thing is probably 35 years old), the dial cord wanted fixing, the calibrator needed calibrating and it needed one new knob from Ten Tec and a new meter bulb from bubs are us.

So, after making an "interchange" cable (four pin inline jack on one end and ¼" stereo plug on the other) for my trusty D-104, I got it on the air. Surprise, surprise, what a great little radio, a definite keeper! Receive audio (once you re-orient yourself to tuning an analog radio) is GREAT and very good audio reports from the other end! Happy am I!

Now for the real fun... As it turns out, my new treasure does not have the optional CW filter. Additionally, and as the radio is three decades old, the factory optional filter seems to be in the category on "un-obtainium". After scouting around a bit, I decided to send twenty bucks to the Four State QRP Group for one of their Hi-Per-Mite CW filter kits. This is actually a very fine little kit with the one exception that it makes use of several "box" type capacitors that were unfamiliar to me. They have a different marking system that caused me some confusion. But then I'm old and ugly and easily confused – but I digress. At any rate I got the little filter soldered together and was very pleasantly surprised at just how well it worked! It has a 200-hertz pass-band at the –3 DB points and plenty of power to drive a small speaker. It is very nice indeed.

Now to back up just a little bit, in my Google search for the factory optional filter I did come upon a page from some Ten Tec manual the provided a circuit diagram and other information regarding same. Also, I need to mention that the Model 540 has a front panel control for the optional filter. Are you beginning to see where this is going? I took the bottom off the radio and found the terminal block for the factory optional filter and determined that short lengths of #18 solid hook-up wire would work for "pins" to plug into the terminal block.

Hooking up the Hi-Per-Mite into the block for the Factory optional filter was not an easy thing for me; it actually took three or four days of referring back to the paperwork and stopping to think about it and back and forth and back and forth. Finally there was a laborious conversation with my friend Mark, KC0FNS, and it was decided that there are two input wires, two output and two power wires on the Hi-Per-Mite and there were like receptacles in the filter block in the Triton. It took about ten minuets to solder my #18 pins on the filter wires and about a minuet to plug 'em in. The one exception was the power ground, which had to go to an existing ground lug.

Now another hour spent in looking at the installation and the diagram and back and forth some more. Finally, with the Triton IV still upside down on the bench and with the bottom cover still off, it was with the greatest trepidation that I pushed the button to feed the thing with the purest filtered and regulated 13.8 volts that I had available. No smoke – awesome! Turned the volume up slightly and noise comes from the speaker – voila!

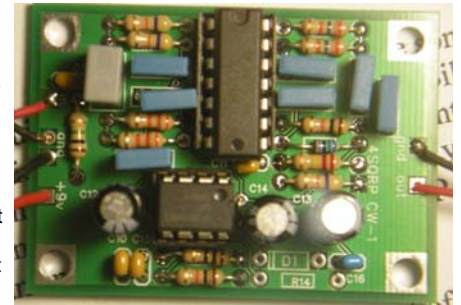
Now for the big test I switch the front panel switch to the CW-1 position where previously there had been no sound at all from the speaker. Now what I hear is background noise but at a diminished level. As a first test, I turn on the calibrator and dial it in through the speaker – OK fine I hear it and wonder of wonders, when I dial just a bit off frequency the beeping of the calibrator goes away! Now as a further test, I switch back to the CW-2 position (no filtering) and there is the broader, off frequency calibrator beeping away as expected.

Subsequent on-air tests have proven the Hi-Per-Mite filter to be pretty excellent and the installation into the Triton IV in place of the unobtainable factory optional filter well worth doing. The filter not only filters out off frequency signals but also slightly increases the volume of the desired signal while at the same time lessening the ambient background noises.

I present here to encourage others to resurrect the old rigs and to go ahead and experiment with "upgrades". You'll have fun and garner huge satisfaction!



Triton IV 540 image courtesy of the Ten Tec Wikipedia



Hy-Per-Mite filter image courtesy of the [Four Square QRP Kits](#) web site

On An Island By Cuba...

Barry Merrill W5GN

When I was KG4CS at Guantanamo Bay, I got to climb the Navassa Island swinging ladder, in July 1971, for the only solo DXPedition there. Climbing the ladder was a piece of cake; the challenge was for the Hollyhock's Coast Guard Helmsman to keep the Boston Whaler UNDER the Ladder to stabilize it as you climbed, amidst three directions of waves.

My first trip to Navassa was via a Navy Huey helo, after WØEXD found me on 20 asking if I could help the Navy Aero Medical Institute, NAMI, in Pensacola, to get to Navassa where they wanted to examine the goats of Navassa. They ultimately confirmed that DDT from the land had worked into the fish at sea that were eaten by the birds of Navassa that fertilized the grass on the island that did indeed get into the bloodstream of those 700 wild and smelly goats.

At the time, I was the Gitmo Base Passenger Transportation Officer, "Barry BiPTO", running the MAC air service, on the COMNAVBASE Admirals personal staff, and he saw the value of this research, and I could fund what little was needed at GTMO, he gave his full support to the project, and I made all the arrangements on our end, and was scheduled to join the team to be the DXPedition part on the island, since WØEXDs time was limited with the research work, and they didn't plan to be on much.

But after making the whole damn thing happen, after they are already at GTMO and are loading the helo for the 125 mile flight, the NAMI Admiral cancelled my joining, claiming some crap about hazardous chemicals. The truth: A concurrent NAMI trip to investigate contaminants in the brain of monkeys in Africa had allowed the wife of one of the researchers to go along, and she made a big stink with the animal cruelty folks when she published photos of the monkey's brains being examined. Since I was unknown to the team except by ham radio, their admiral decided I was a risk.

So I stayed in GTMO and was the communications link between them on 80 meters. Toward the end, they had apparently contacted their Admiral who invited me to fly to from Navassa on the last day, after they had shutdown. But, it was still a kewl trip with good photos of the whole island before we touched down, at the top, so I could climb the light house, and also drop something in the 500 foot deep outhouse.

But THEN, Admiral McCauley at GTMO was REALLY PISSED that I had basically done everything to make that NAMI trip happen, and couldn't go to operate ham radio. (Note: There was NO OVERSEAS PHONES at GTMO in 1970-1972; ham phone patches were all there was, so I ran all of the Admiral's patches, and of course had visited the station, so he had a good appreciation for ham radio!)

So, he then made friends with Commandant Coast Guard Miami, whose buoy tender, the USS Hollyhock came annually to service the



Continued on
Page 13

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, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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6:30 P.M.

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Cash Bar

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Wireless Association of South Hills.

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janbell@dbs2-llc.com

RSVP deadline
December 29th 2014

Rum Punch & 5 Watts

Bob Seaquist KC9IWE

When the big boys have a DXpedition they fundraise for months, hire a ship, load shipping containers with tons of gear and then brave storm seas to get to some battered South Seas atoll.

Me? I let my wife save and budget, make airline reservations, find a villa and then I tuck a little gear into my carry-on and off I go.

In my case the "DXpedition" was a family vacation to St. John in the US Virgin Islands. We had gone there before and loved its picture-postcard looks, pure white beaches, crystal clear water, shady palm trees and rum punch. Thanks to millionaire Laurence Rockefeller, he bought the island and then gave it to the U.S. Park Service. Visitors enjoy a relatively un-crowded and undeveloped piece of paradise.

There were few plans except, of course, for some snorkeling, sipping rum punch and a little radio operation. The rest of the family did not do the latter.

This was a very lightweight venture with the radio and gear weighing in, at most, at about four pounds. Small as it was, the TSA did pull my bag aside and swabbed the radio for explosives. On the return home they again pulled the bag aside, swabbed the radio but found my (expensive and valuable) Leatherman tool, left mistakenly in the bag. I no longer have that tool. Look for it on the TSA auction site.

Operations were, as they say, "holiday style" meaning the radio went on about the time the family went to bed and all other activities ceased. I hooked a 20m End-fed wire over a tree branch and sat on the deck outside my bedroom. Though I could have used the radio's batteries I selected my tiny power supply and happily sat in the dark hunting for stations. It was not easy, not because of my low power out (five watts) but because of the high noise "in." Our villa's illumination was compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL), which seemed to be very, very noisy. In fact when I turned off the bulb lighting the deck the radio went from wall-to-wall static to jam-packed stations!

When you operate QRP it usually is pretty useless to call "CQ" especially when you operate phone so I listened for strong stations and tried to snag them. My call sign is, well, pretty dumb sounding; when it's tagged with the somewhat exotic "Portable Kilo Papa Two" (Virgin Islands) it's a magnet. I rarely uttered that twice when the other guy would come back sounding really interested. I would hear them doing a string of calls and signal reports but when they'd get to me and my Caribbean call they would chat. It was great! Working very casually I talked with Hams in Finland, Russia, Germany, Canary Islands and several US States working 5w SSB. Most of the time I got good, solid, honest signal reports too. The radio was apparently good enough that some operators expressed surprise when I said I was QRP.

One afternoon of operating at a hotel in Charlotte-Amalie, St Thomas, had much less noise. The hotel was next to a bay so maybe there was the "salt-water amplifier" effect, which was not found 750' above the water at the villa.

The principal disappointment was that a new 10-20-40m end-fed that would not tune. Not even close despite the radio's exceptional tuner.

Once at home, even with prompting from the owner of the antenna maker, LNR Precision, it would not tune. Their excellent customer service sent me a new one, an example of their really great customer service. And the new "Trail Ready" wire works great!

Equipment: Elecraft KX3, mic, power cord, Sony headphones, 20' coax, appropriate connectors, Gamma HPS-1a Hybrid power supply, LNR Precision 20m end-fed, LNR Precision 10-20-40m Trail Friendly end-fed, pencil, paper and HamLog on the iPhone. Oh... a length of parachute cord to pull the antenna over a branch.



Part of the Hallicrafters "SR" series collection at the Crest (CA) Radio Museum... along with some other radios to boot.

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2015 Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

DX News Briefs

The latest press release (as of deadline) indicates that it will be approximately 4 weeks before **K1N** goes QRV from **Navassa KP1**. The exact date of departure will depend on a number of factors, it appears most likely the team will be QRV the first two weeks of February.



This will be the first activation of Navassa in 22 years, and another opportunity is not expected for at least another 10 years. The team is strongly requesting that all stations LISTEN TO THE OPERATORS INSTRUCTIONS at all times. They also remind everyone that not all modes will be available on all bands, as their goal is to maximize the number of unique stations worked "down to the last little pistol." More information at www.navassadx.com – WØGJ for the KP1-5 Project



The Rockall DX Group is in the final stages of operating as **EP6T** from Kish Island AS-166 in mid-January. They plan 5 high power stations. Operation detail and more information can be found at <http://www.rockall.be/>. QSL via MØURX or OQRS. — Rockall DXG

N7XR will return to Diego Garcia as **VQ9XR** 15 – 28 January. QSL via OQRX & ClubLog. More info at <http://www.wake-diego2014.org/> — N7XR

SP5APW will be QRV as **3W2JK** from Con Son Island AS-130 11—17 March 11-17. More info at <http://as-130.blogspot> — DX World

JW/F8DVD will be QRV from EU-026 9 – 15 April. He will be QRV on all HF bands from the JW5E clubhouse. More information at <http://www.qrz.com/db/JW/F8DVD>. QSL via F8DVD – F8DVD
JA1XGI plans to be active from Port Vila, Vanuatu as **YJØXG** between April 13-19, 2015. Q RV on HF bands, CW/SSB/RTTY. More information at <http://island.geocities.jp/vanuatuholiday/> QSL via JA1XGI – JA1XGI

The Perseverance DX Group reports that they are still on track for their planned **TX3X** operation (call pending) for 1 – 12 October. More information at <http://chesterfield2015.pdxg.net/> -- Team Chesterfield

Cordell Expeditions has confirmed that their vessel has been confirmed for 10 November – 22 December. They are awaiting confirmation that the will be operate from Heard Island as **VKØEK**. They are also awaiting word on operation, if any, from Kerguelen – KK6EK

ON4WW reports that he is extending the time to make a final decision on **3Y Bouvet** operation until the end of January. He is awaiting additional information on funding from various DX Foundations & DX clubs for his proposed one man operation. While he is optimistic, at present only about 50% o the needed funds have been pledged – ON4WW

QSL Routes

4XØWFF via 4Z5LA – KB8NW	P4ØJW via NT5V – JA1HGY
5WØAG via SP7DQR – JA1HGY	SU9VB via UA4WHX – LU2DKN
5Z4/EA4ATI via EA4YK – N6TA	T3ØD via DL4SVA – DL4SVA
9N7KT via JN1THL – JA1HGY	TK5JJ via F5RXL – FW5JJ
E5ØA via E51AND – KB8NW	VK2DX via W3HNK – N8IK
E5ØB via E51BQ – KB8NW	VK9EC via JF3PLF – JA1HGY
E5ØD via E51DD – KB8NW	VK9EX via JF3PLF – JA1HGY
E5ØJ via E51JD – KB8NW	VK9XSP via SP6IXP – JA1HGY
E5ØK via E51KC – KB8NW	VP2EIM via JA1HGY – JA1HGY
E5ØV via E51CG – KB8NW	XP3A via PA3249 – PA3249
E5ØW via E51WL – KB8NW	XRØYY via EB7DX – LU2DKN
E51NOU via N7OU – LU2DKN	XRØZR via IV3DSH – LU2DKN
FW5JJ via F5RXL – FW5JJ	ZD8O via OHØXX – JA1HGY
JY9FC via E73Y – W2IRT	ZK3E via SP7DQR – JA1HGY
OX3XR via PA3249 – PA3249	ZK3Q via SP7DQR – JA1HGY
P4ØCX via K8CX – KB8NW	ZL7X via JZØVSH – JA1HGY

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our DX News information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Attorney at Law**

The Cingolani Building

300 North McKean Street, Butler PA 16001

Phone: 724-283-0653

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

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at www.dashtoons.com !

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



On An Island continued from Page 9

navigation lights at GTMO and to replace the Navassa Lighthouse batteries.

And so I was able to join them, taking a 100w Heath SB-102 transceiver, an AVQ-14 Vertical, and a long wire, an LC-tuner and a 500 watt generator. I went over with the first boat trip and got set up at "Lulu Bay", at the top of the ladder, on the first shelf of the island. Then, a dozen or more Coasties began to haul up the new batteries, about 30-40 pounds each, into a special backpack, taking a pair and making the long trek up to the second shelf where the lighthouse was located. They had replaced the (100?) batteries by late afternoon, but then had to anchor off shore and send a team back the next day to measure the temperature to verify all the batteries were working, so I got 28 hours on Navassa.

Unfortunately conditions were poor, with 15 never opening overseas, but I still made 714 Contacts, including 25 JAs as K4CSY/KC4.

I've lost it now, the letter sent to me from the FCC that was required in those days, and only issued AFTER you had the letter from CCGD Miami who "owned" Navassa. It initially stated that I had permission to use the call K4CSY/KC with NO number, which of course would have been a brand new KCØ prefix for WPX hunters. I chose not to exploit that without reminding the FCC that previous calls were /KC4 and not /KC, and their second letter corrected the error.

A couple of other Navassa facts:

- Originally a source of guano for fertilizer after the US Government Guano Island act (1880s??) that said that if an Island has guano on it, and is not occupied it is now USA territory.
- In the 1890s, the workers of the Baltimore and Navassa Mining company mutinied and killed the manager, which led to a US (Supreme?) Court declaring that Navassa Island was a ship for purposes of Maritime Law.
- In 1956 it was the staging area for the planned US Invasion of the Dominican Republic, that never happened, with a couple thousand troops there.
- Navassa is the first light enroute from the Panama Canal to Europe.

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 15th, 2014 — Largely as the result of a grassroots campaign, "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" ([H.R. 4969](#)) attracted the support of 69 members of the US House of Representatives in addition to that of its sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL).

While the soon-to-adjourn 113th Congress did not enact the bill, the effort to gain passage of the legislation will resume anew when the 114th Congress convenes in January. Introduced with bipartisan support last June, H.R. 4969 called on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The limited PRB-1 pre-emption currently applies only to state and municipal land-use ordinances. The FCC has indicated its reluctance to provide the same legal protections from private land-use agreements — often called covenants, conditions, and restrictions or CC&Rs — without direction from Congress. ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson N1ND, this week stressed that the fight is not over.

"While we are disappointed that the bill did not make it through the process during the session, the effort was extremely energized by the efforts of thousands of ARRL members who participated in our grassroots lobbying effort," Henderson said. "In just 6 short months we gained tremendous traction for the Amateur Radio Parity Act."

Henderson explained that sometime after the new Congress is called into session in January, a new "Amateur Radio Parity Act" bill with a new number will be introduced into the US House. "Once this happens, the ARRL will gear up for a fresh effort to push this legislation forward," he added.

In a note to ARRL Section Managers this week, ARRL CEO David Sumner K1ZZ, thanked Section leaders and Field Organization volunteers on behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors and Headquarters staff for their help in garnering legislative support for H.R. 4969. "We had hoped to gain 30 co-sponsors for the bill and ultimately ended up with 69, plus the sponsor," Sumner noted. "The overwhelming majority of these 70 supporters are returning in January, which gives us a good base on which to grow additional support."

Sumner said the objective for 2015 is to continue the momentum, gathering enough support to move the bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee. "We have received expressions of interest from the Senate side and are hoping to have the bill introduced there as well," he added.

Henderson said the bill would not have attained its current level of support in the US House without the thousands of letters and phone calls made by ARRL members to their congressional representatives. "The success of this crucial issue relies on the efforts of *all* radio amateurs and ARRL members," he said. "We know you will step forward in the new year, when we renew our efforts on Capitol Hill."

The ARRL has developed an H.R. 4969 web page that provides [additional information](#) on this subject.



Silent Keys



Ann Astolas, mother of Rich Danko N3SBF, 90, Pittsburgh, January 1st, 2015

Charles H. Martin W3LUS, 93, Ross Township, January 3rd, 2015



WASHfest 2015

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

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



Sunday, February 22nd, 2015

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



(800) 545-8881

DXCC Card Checking Available!

Thanks Art Lund NQ3A

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

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

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



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)!

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

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

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:
WASHFEST 2015
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN
4246 Seton Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 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:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Please Check the Appropriate One-Year Rate:

- ☐ \$39 in US
☐ Age 21 or younger, \$20 in US (only if you are the oldest licensed amateur in your household)
☐ Canada \$49
☐ Elsewhere \$62
☐ Other (including Blind, Life, QST by First Class Postage — please contact ARRL for rate)

Dues subject to change without notice

Call Sign: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

Name & Call Sign: _____

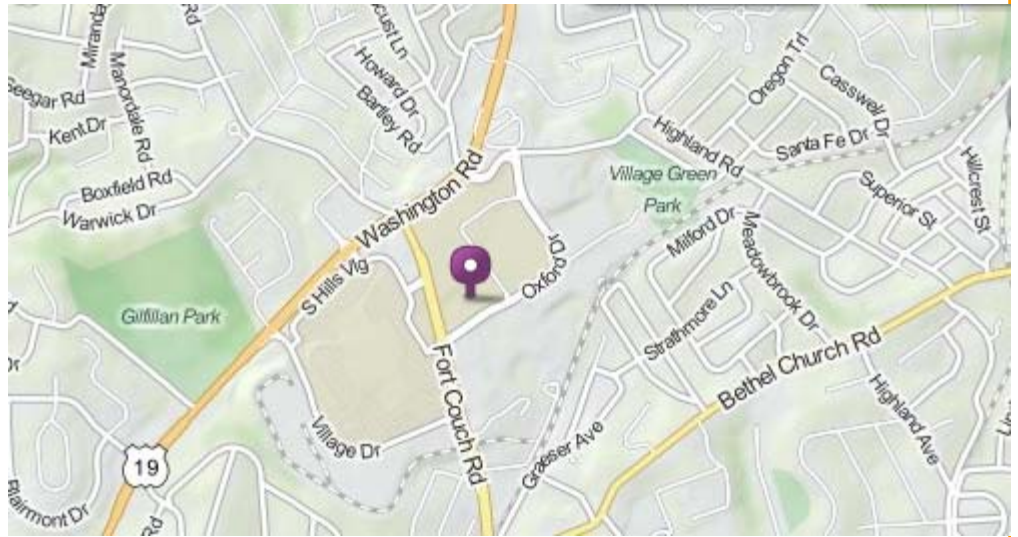
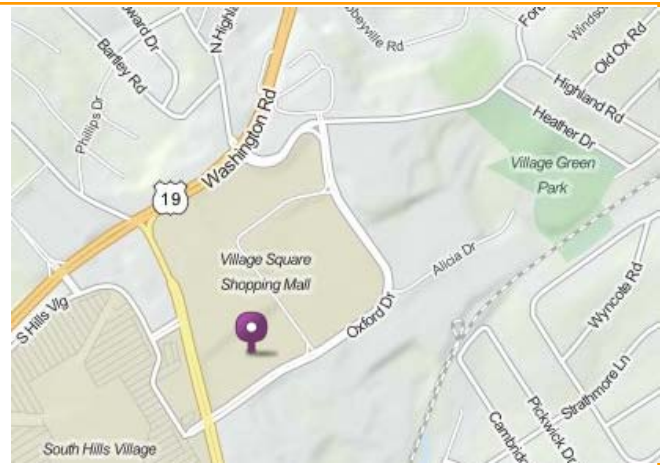


New WASH Meeting Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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