



WASHRAGTM



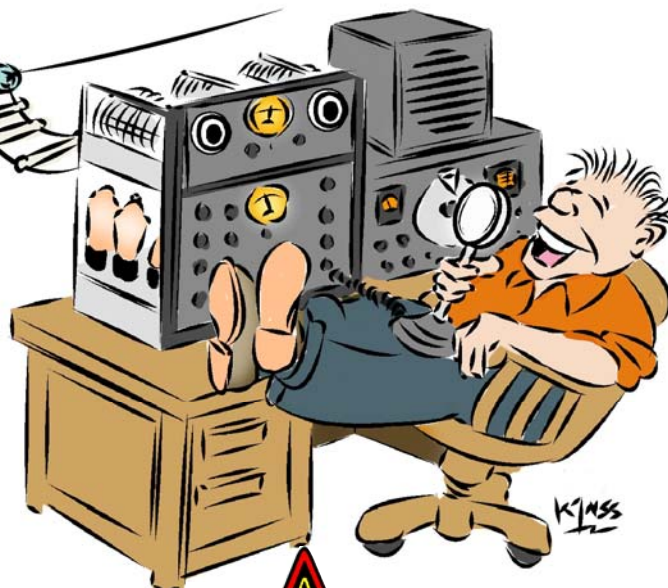
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 02
FEBRUARY 2015

Wireless Association of South Hills

WASHfest 2015

Is Almost Here!

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



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2015

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, February 5th, 2015

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, February 5th 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 Photos: WASHFest 2014 crowd shots. Just a reminder of what's coming up in just a few weekends, the first hamfest of the year for Western PA! Hope you're looking forward to it as much as we are!

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN

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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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)

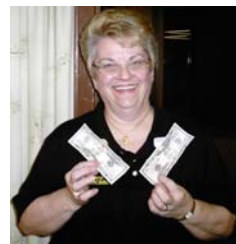
Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: 2015 Schedule To Be Determined

Location: **WPXI Community Room**

Carol's Comments

WASHFest (20th Year) 2015! As I sit here thinking about our Hamfest, it is truly amazing that we have been doing this for 20 years. That is something we all can be very proud of. It just goes to show you when good people do good things they get results.



Our members always work together that's why our Hamfest is great. On February 22nd, 2015 all our hard work will be done. Then we can sit back and relax.

Rick and Jan Bell will be in charge of the food this year and we all know what a great cook he is. On commemorating our 20th Hamfest, we will be handing out pens to everyone who buys a main prize ticket. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and the turn-out will be good.

Looking forward to seeing all at the meeting on Thursday February 5th.

Happy Valentines Day to all.

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

The end appears near for another icon of Radio enthusiasts and experimenters. The New York Stock Exchange has de-listed RadioShack as of February 2nd, after the company failed to file required compliance documents. News reports indicate that half of RS's owned-and-operated stores may be sold to Sprint, with the rest to be closed. Most financial experts expect a bankruptcy filing any day.

Saturday, January 31st marked the first 2015 meeting of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. The year kicked off with K3VX, W3WH, KB3GUM, N3FB, WB4GCS, KC4WTT, welcome W2RMA, N3DFK, N3IDH and W3WN. The cool weather meant that we (and 6 of the Pa State Police's finest) almost had the place to ourselves, as we discussed, amongst many other things, the 2 meter net, Field Day sites in South Park, Google eyeing frequency spectrum, going to the Caribbean, Point Park COPA Auditions, "Normal people aren't up at 3 or 4 in the morning!", "You don't talk to me before 11!!", the sunspot photo shown on the N3SH.ORG web site, Navy Morse Code & 5 letter groups, the *Imitation Game*, sending code in other languages, Virtual Machines and Linux Servers, auditing COBOL and Pascal spaghetti, er, computer code, VISA & hacked credit cards at Home Depot, **WASHFest** Setup...

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, February 28th (the week AFTER **WASHFest** this year) 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?

WASHFest updates... there have been some interesting developments since the January meeting.

First off, Jack has decided not to return to do the catering after all. Rick & Jan Bell will be running the kitchen this year, and they will need some help. Knowing what we've had at Field Day the last few years, we should not be too worried about the menu, needless to say it will be great! A few extra volunteers will be needed to help in the kitchen (Little Miss Field Day has already volunteered)

For the first time in many years, we will NOT have early access to the hall on the Saturday before the hamfest, as the hall has been booked for another event. So, we need a few extra hands to be at the hall about 4:30 AM, give or take, for the table set-up. We will NOT let in any vendors until the tables are set in place... but you know that some vendors will be present at 5, so the sooner we get started, the better. If you can help out on the "early shift", please let Carol KB3GMN know ASAP.

We were informed at the end of January that Art NQ3A, who has been the WPA Card Checker for a good many years, has resigned his position. As of deadline, we do not know who his replacement will be, or if that replacement will be available for **WASHFest**. Our apologies to anyone who had planned to have their cards checked, but this situation is beyond our control.

As of deadline, we have had over a half dozen people indicate that they would like to take their VEC Exam at the hamfest. We may end up with close to a dozen folks pre-registered. We will absolutely NOT be able to take walk-ins, as the exam tables will be crowded already. Anyone who is a VE who will be at the hamfest is requested to bring their credentials, so that we can rotate the examiners and not force any one person to miss a large amount of time at the hamfest.

And it should to without saying... but... a gentle reminder that only club members who are working at the hamfest get "free" admission. If you're not helping out, no freebies. Sad to say, we've had some abuse of the privilege in years past. That said, keep in mind that if everyone pitches in, everything gets done, and no one person misses out on everything. So please see Carol, Rick, Bill, or someone else on the **WASHFest** committee to sign up for something — unfolding chairs, selling tickets, watching the door, making coffee, whatever.

And, by the same token... dealers only before 8 AM, no exceptions. We've had too many folks over the year look for an excuse to sneak in and get "first crack", and that's just plain not fair to everyone else who is patiently waiting in line.

WASHNet 2015 NCS Schedule

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
03/01/2015	Harold K3HCR	04/26/2015	Dave N3DFK
03/08/2015	Larry K3VX	05/03/2015	Fred KB3DCO
03/15/2015	Digital Night	05/10/2015	Glen KE7FD
03/22/2015	Rick KB3IAC	05/17/2015	Digital Night

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

Minutes, January 7th Meeting

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

President Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:14 hours. 17 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 Bill W3WH, second by Eric K3SGT, 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**. Several pre-registrations already, so we will not be taking walk-ins. Remainder of 2015 schedule sent in to the ARRL.

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeaters are repeating. The 440 shack is still "sad" & in need of major work. Some items in the WPRC database are out of date and must be updated. WPRC recognized representative for 955 & 550 is still Steve W3SRL. Procedure to change recognized rep explained. Motion by Ron W3WN, second by Eric K3SGT, to pay \$30 annual dues to WPRC for 2015 dues. Passed unanimously

Repeater Relocation Committee(KB3IAC): No changes since last month.

WASHNet (KE7FD): Thanks to Bill W3WH for inaugurating the new net preamble.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): Club simplex contest this weekend. Rules & entry packet on the club web site. Major upcoming contests are listed in the newsletter.

Public Service (N3RDV): New website for Allegheny County ARES Is in development.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): 50/50 tonight

Newsletter (W3WN): No report.

President (KB3GMN): Flyers available regarding Pittsburgh Marathon radio operators sign-up.

WASHFest 2015 (KB3GMN):

- Main prizes have arrived. 3rd Prize now Kenwood TM-281A
- Tickets Printed. Black Box prizes completed. Door prizes in hand.
- Who is planning to attend?
- Jack is still doing the catering as of the meeting. (*Editors Note: This changed after the meeting, Jack is not coming after all*). He's agreed to accepting help in the kitchen.
- Everyone gets a wrist band — workers and attendees.
- Everyone will get a commemorative anniversary pen. Bill suggested that they get it when they buy their tickets.
- To be clear, ONE vendor admission is included with EACH table purchased. Additional people working the table(s) must pay the \$5 admission, although they will get a vendor wrist band.
- Postcards to be printed and sent out in early February.

Old Business: None

New Business: none

Good of the Order:

- Jan KB3IVX says we have 19 people coming to the Holiday Party
- Larry K3VX asked if we wanted to go to Outlook Grove in South Park again for Field Day, if it is available.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Jim WB4GCS and carried.

Meeting adjourned 20:54.

After a short recess, and the 50/50 drawing, a demo & installation of FLDigi Software took place for those who were interested.



WASH Spotlight: N3FB



Frank Bobro N3FB being awarded the Kilowatt Award for 2014 by WASH

President Carol Danko KB3GMN at the WASH Christmas /Holiday Party

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN

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	2014	KB3YKL	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent
AB3NM	AB3ED	KC3ANX	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW	Keys
K3HCR	AB3EN	KC3BQI	W4ZE	WASH SC	AB3KA
K3SGT	AB3PJ	KJ3D	WASH GA	N3RNX	K3EED
K3VX	AC4KU	N2QIV	K3OL	WASH TN	K3LIE
KB3DCO	AE3DL	N3BPB	KB3IJX	KE3XB	KA3NMG
KB3GMN	KØLIN	N3DFK	WASH NE	N3YPB	KB3ENX
KB3GMU	K3AIR	N3IDH	NØPEU	WASH TX	KB3FNM
KB3IAC	K3GW	N3NWR	WASH OR	K3LGM	KB3FQT
KB3IVX	K3JDS	N3OVO	NØVLR	Jane Wagner	N3FZ
KB3JHR	K3LGM	N3RDV	NØWPV	WASH VI	N3HKQ
KB3ORO	KA3ANU	W3LE	KB3NVL	NP2JF	N3KEH
KC3DOF	KA3RXY	W3RWS	KB3NVM		N3OBD
KC4WTT	KA3TWI	W3WH			N3SKR
KE7FD	KB3ERQ	W3WN			N3SRC
N1NCZ	KB3GMP	W4CKR			N3ZEL
N3FB	KB3PSB	Darryn Sleeman			N3XFE
N3RHT	KB3WZT				W3ZLK
N3SBF	KB3YCX				WA3JPP
NU3Q					
W3VFA					
WA3VSS					
WB4GCS					

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

Through January 28th, 2015

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2015 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

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.cqwpix.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/
May 30 th —31 st	CQ WPX Contest CW	http://www.cqwpix.com/
June 7 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org
June 7 th	WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest	Butler Farm Show Grounds / Roe Airport, Butler PA
June 8 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 13 th — 14 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 27 th — 28 th	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org

February Workshop Update

Rick Bell KB3IAC

For those participating in the ongoing Arduino/Raspberry Pi Workshop: We will be using the voltage dividers that I hope you have been building/experimenting with. We will be authoring code to use the dividers to monitor battery voltage. Also we will construct some code to "Calibrate" the Arduino and the voltage dividers to that the readings are accurate. You need to have your LCD display connected to the Arduino and working.

So you will need your Arduino and LCD display, your proto board and jumpers, the voltage dividers that you built or at least your resistor assortment, a DVM or meter that will measure volts DC, your laptop. We will examine a few different voltage dividers; 15VDC max, 20 VDC max, and 25 VDC max.

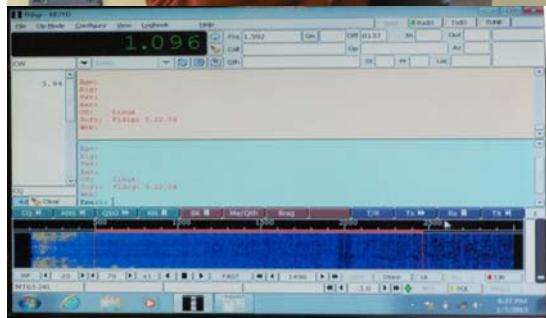
You can then pick the one that you think will meet your needs.

The goal for the night will be to have the final voltage divider establish for your project, the code for the divider math, the code for the calibration math, and a working readout on the LCD display.

Please let me know if you will or will not attend so I can plan accordingly!

"Seen" at the January Meeting

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN

**N3SBF, K3VX****KB3GMN, N3FB****KB3DCO, KB3IVX, KB3IAC, K3VX, KB3YCX****KC3DOF, KE7FD****W3WH,
WB4GCS
(back),
KC3DOF
(front),
N3FB****N3RDV****N1NCZ
(front),
WA3VSS
(back)****K3SGT****More Photos on Page 7**

Things I Think I Think

Bill Hill W3WH

I forget the name of the columnists who used to use this title, but I hope they won't mind if I borrow it for our newsletter:

- It seems like I never get over the wonder of this hobby.
- The hobby is extraordinarily diverse even within our little group Of Wash Members.
- So far, the 160 meter DX season has been extremely disappointing.
- I'm looking forward I'm looking forward to the 20th **WASHFest** WASH Club Hamfest!
- Looking forward to better weather to attempt antenna improvements.
- Field Day will be upon us before we know it.
- Even though you can spend a lot of money pursuing this hobby I think it's probably one of the more economical hobbies .
- The Dayton HAMVENTION and has lost some of its allure because of the Internet's instant communication ability.
- I wish more people would pursue CW especially because of its efficiency QRP is a hoot. In my latest quest I'm up to 77 DX countries worked with five Watts or less. Just this week I worked Rodriguez Island, Eastern Kiribati, and Guam.
- Because we have to set up on Sunday morning this year's **WASHFest** , it looks like a very long day in the offing.



(E-Mail) Letters to the Editor

Hi Ron,

I recently found an article you (or, at least, I believe you're the author?) wrote here about my dad:

<http://www.n3sh.org/WASHRAG/2005/WASH1205.pdf>

If it was indeed you, I just wanted to drop you a line that it's really nice and totally by chance I came across it. I've been thinking casually about getting into ham radio these days but I have absolutely no idea what I'm doing. I have always loved math and the sciences, so I think it would be a really cool hobby for me to pick up.

Please let me know if you've received my email, and thanks again!

Jack's daughter (now 24 years old),

— Elizabeth Carlson (Daughter of Jack Carlson N3FZ (SK)), Jeffersonville, PA



Photo
Right:
KB3YCX,
W3WH,
N3SBF,
WA3VSS



"Seen" at the WASH 2014 Christmas / Holiday Party

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



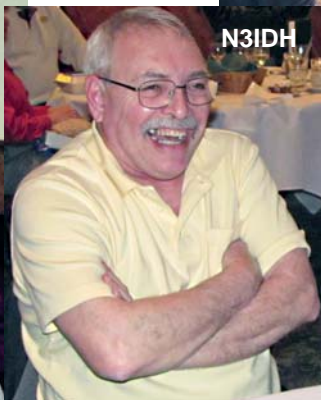
K3VX, N3FB, KB3GMU



KB3IVX, W3WH



WB4GCS, KC4WTT



N3IDH, KB3IAC, KB3IVX



KB3JHR, Jeanne, KB3IVX, K3VX



W3WH, K3VX, W3WN, KB3GMN



SSTV Images from RS0ISS

Steve Nordahl NS3L

Well it was a nice weekend, receiving historic images of Russia's Space program directly from the International Space Station (ISS) !!!.

Over the weekend (January 31st through February 2nd), during the ISS orbit passes either near or over North America, I set my equipment up to receive images being transmitted from ISS. The images depict historic events involving both past and current Russian Cosmonauts.

The Russian Ham Radio Operators from "RS0ISS" aboard the International Space Station (ISS) transmitted continuously all weekend taking 3 minute pauses in transmissions, sending 12 different images through the course of the weekend.

During the entire period the ISS was transmitting, several passes were close to or directly over North America giving me the ability to capture 11 out of the 12 unique RS0ISS images sent from ISS.

I never did get image 12/12.. Thought I may have gotten a partial.. Most all images were relatively good quality and only one or two were incomplete but legible enough to count. Not a bad effort at all from my location!

For those who do not know Russian, the text at the bottom of every image reads as follows:

"80 years since the birth of the first cosmonaut of the planet Earth - Yu. A. Gagarin"

Software and equipment used to receive the images:

- Software: MMSSTV (Decodes SSTV transmissions)
- Receiver: Icom IC-7000 set to 145.80 FM
- Data Interface: microKeyer II (Link directly to MMSSTV)
- Antenna: Diamond X-300 VHF/UHF dual-band gain antenna at 551 feet above sea level or 36 feet AGL in Lower Nazareth Township, Pennsylvania.

I must say that this was a first for me receiving images this way. I'm hoping they do this again and share more history with us all.

Enjoy the images.. That was fun!

Pictures courtesy of and © Copyright 2015 Steve Nordahl NS3L



Amateur Radio Payloads Share Ride With Soil Moisture Monitoring Satellite

American Radio Relay League

Four NASA Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNA-X) CubeSats carrying Amateur Radio payloads launched successfully January 31 from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base. The primary payload for the Delta II launcher was the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite. SMAP's onboard radar will share Amateur Radio spectrum at 1.26 GHz. Amateur Radio is secondary on the 23 centimeter band, which covers 1240 to 1300 MHz.

"This is a good example of a compatible sharing partner," ARRL CEO David Sumner K1ZZ, observed. "Any interference to amateur communication in the band will be brief as the satellite passes overhead."

SMAP and the four CubeSats all deployed successfully. The research CubeSats, launched on behalf of universities, will downlink their telemetry on the 70 centimeter band. The CubeSats and their downlink frequencies (modes) are:

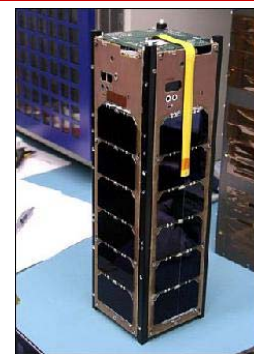
- Firebird II FU3 437.405 MHz (19k2 FSK)
- Firebird I FU4 437.230 MHz (19k2 FSK)
- GRIFEX 437.485 MHz (9k6 FSK)
- ExoCube (CP-10) 437.270 MHz (9k6 FSK)

The GRIFEX satellite is a University of Michigan project, in cooperation with JPL, while ExoCube (CP-10) is a space weather satellite developed by the California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and the University of Wisconsin in partnership with NASA, and sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

The FIREBIRD program is a collaborative CubeSat space weather mission of two CubeSats designed and developed by Montana State University, the University of New Hampshire, The Aerospace Corporation, and Los Alamos National Laboratories - the FIREBIRD consortium. The FIREBIRD mission also is funded by the NSF.

SMAP carries a "synthetic aperture radar." The L band (1.26 GHz) radar is designed to measure backscatter off the Earth's surface. The amount of backscatter returned to the radar changes with the amount of moisture in the soil. RF pulses at this frequency are less affected by weather or by a moderate vegetation cover.

The satellite is at approximately 425 miles up in a near-polar, sun-synchronous orbit. SMAP also includes a radiometer operating at 1.41 GHz to measure naturally occurring RF energy given off by Earth's surface.



GRIFEX CubeSat
photo courtesy of the
University of Michigan

ARRL Board Tweaks DXCC Rules

American Radio Relay League

The ARRL Board of Directors has tweaked the DX Century Club ([DXCC](#)) rules to clarify and expand their recognition of remotely controlled station technology. It also has added a rule that puts greater ethical responsibility on operators with respect to remotely controlled operation. In addition, the Board adopted changes to the ARRL VHF/UHF contest rules that are aimed at encouraging greater participation. The Board took the actions during its annual meeting January 16-17 in Windsor, Connecticut.

The [DXCC Rules](#) changes, which affect Section I, subsections 8 and 9, explain and extend how contacts with remotely controlled stations now may be applied toward the DXCC award. According to ARRL CEO David Sumner K1ZZ, the changes are subtle but significant. The modified rules make clear that contacts with legally licensed, land-based, remotely controlled stations count for DXCC, but the control point — the operator's location — of a remotely controlled station no longer has to be land based; the operator can be literally anywhere.

"It has always been permitted for a QSO to count for both stations, if either station was operated remotely from a control point within the same DXCC entity," Sumner explained. "Now the location of the operator doesn't matter; the operator could be on the far side of the Moon if he or she could figure out how to remotely control a station on land back on Earth from there." Transmitter location continues to define a station's location, and, for DXCC purposes, all transmitters and receivers must be located within a 500 meter diameter circle, excluding antennas.

Under the old rules, if either station was operated from a control point in another DXCC entity, the contact did not count for DXCC for either station. "This was unenforceable unless someone was transparent about what they were doing," Sumner said.

The Board further adopted a new rule, now Subsection 11 (subsequent rules will be renumbered accordingly), that acknowledges the reality of the technology enabling remote operation, and it puts greater responsibility on individuals when it comes to applying that technology ethically and responsibly.

"Issues concerning remotely controlled operating and DXCC are best dealt with by each individual carefully considering the ethical limits that he/she will accept for his/her DXCC and other operating awards," the new rule states. It adds, in part, "the owner of these achievements needs to be comfortable standing behind his/her award and numbers. Peer attention has always been a part of awards chasing, of course, but in these times with so many awards and so many players, it is more important than ever to 'play the game ethically.'"

Subsection 11 acknowledges that technological advances "add to the difficulty in defining rules for DXCC," but stresses that the intent of the rules is what's important. "It will continue to be up to the operator to decide what types of legal remote control operating he/she will use (if any) to contribute to an operating award," the new rule concludes.

The Board also adopted amendments to the [General Rules for ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz](#) to encourage greater participation and band utilization. The changes become effective with the [2015 June ARRL VHF Contest](#). The revisions stemmed from recommendations offered by the Board's Programs and Services Committee's ad-hoc VHF and Above Revitalization subcommittee, composed of active VHF/UHF contesters, and they received strong support from the VHF/UHF community.

The subcommittee was charged with developing recommendations to increase the level and breadth of ARRL VHF and above contest participation and encourage operation on lesser-used bands. As a start to the process, the Board approved three changes that will permit assistance for all operator categories, with no effect on entry category; permit self-spotting for all operator categories, and allow single operators to transmit on more than one band at a time.

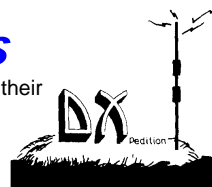
The changes will permit assistance in arranging contacts, but not in conducting contacts. They will, for example, allow a station to announce its location in a chat room, on a repeater, or even via e-mail.

In other actions, the Board instructed the HF Band Planning Committee — which soon will solicit members' comments on proposed changes to the ARRL HF Band Plans — to include the possibility of requesting that the FCC add RTTY and data privileges for Novices and Technicians on 15 meters.

The Board also

- Bestowed the 2014 George Hart Distinguished Service Award on David B. Colter WA1ZCN.
- Added "Assistant Section Traffic Manager" as a new field appointment.
- Authorized ARRL Headquarters staff to implement guidelines to expand opportunities for field checking of 160 meter QSL cards for DXCC.
- Honored several professional journalists with the ARRL Bill Leonard Award for their outstanding coverage of Amateur Radio in video, print, and aural media.

DX News Briefs



The Intrepid DX Group has announced that they have their Landing/Camp Permit for [VP8 South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands](#) DXpedition, tentatively scheduled for January & February 2016. They will be on each island 10 days, with 8 full days of radio operation on each, weather and sea conditions permitting. They will be travelling on the RV Braveheart. More information will be available at <http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8/> -- Intrepid DX Group

OZ1BII will be QRV as [D44EE](#) from the D4A contest station, 19 – 14 February, including the ARRL DX CW Contest, 160 – 10 CW only. More info at <http://www.oz1bii.dk> QSL via OZ1BII

IV3FSG will be active from Zanzibar as [5H1ES](#) 19 February to 11 March, HF, CW SSB & Digi. QSL via IK3GES – IV3FSG

IK6CAC will be QRV holiday style as [5H1OC](#) 19 February to 11 March. QSL to IK6CAC. Logs and more information at http://www.ik6cac.com/it_logon.asp -- IK6CAC

[Lord Howe VK9L](#) will be QRV 22 – 28 February with two stations operated by OH1TV and OH2YY. QRV mainly on SSB with some CW. QSL via OH2YY – OH2YY

[5Z4LS](#) will be QRV 5 – 18 March, 80 – 10, mostly CW, with activity during the ARRL DX SSB contest. QSL via G3RWF – G3RWF

ARAC will activate the [9QØHQ](#) club station 10 – 25 March. More information at <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt/> QSL via I2YSB – I2YSB

[VK9N/VK7AN](#) and [VK9N/VK7YUM](#) from [Norfolk Island](#) will be QRV 20 – 27 March, 40 – 10, SSB & Digi. QSL via home calls – DX World

[J38MM](#) and [J38NN](#) will be QRV 23 – 31 May, 40 – 10, CW SSB & RTTY. They will be in the CQ WPX CW as J38MM. QSL both via KE1B – KE1B

K9EL will again be QRV as [FS/K9EL](#) 28 May – 16 June, 160 – 10. QSL via K9EL – K9EL

A tentative operation from [Wake Island](#) as [K6W](#) is planned for 4 – 19 September by AG6IP. More information pending and at http://www.1x1callsigns.org/index.php/index.php?option=com_jumi&fileid=4&action=recDetail&recid=11470 – AG6IP

F5RAV will be QRV as [C6LT](#) 20 – 27 October on HF and during the CQ WW SSB Contest. QSL via F5RAV – F5RAV

A DXpedition to [Kerguelen Island \(FT5X\)](#) is planned for November/December 2015. More information pending – DX World

KCØW will be QRV as [A35COW](#) 15 January – 15 February 2016, on 160, 80 & 40 CW only. QSL via KCØW – Da Cow

QSL Routes

3W7CW via SP5JTF – PY2SP	OPØLE via ON7TK – KB8NW
5R8M via IK2VUC – JA1HGY	P33W via UA3DX – KZ2I
8PØP via W3HNK – 8PØP	RI44ANT via UA4WHX – DO1DXX
C21GC via LZ1GC – LU2EMH	S79AC via OE4AAC – KB8NW
CP4WHX via UA4WHX – DO1DXX	SUØERA via SM5AQD – JA1HGY
DW8BXU via JJ1VLY – JQ2GYU	T88GS via JJ1VLY – JQ2GYU
EP6T via MØURX – EP6T	T88HZ via TA1HZ – JA1HGY
E51CDW via BA4DW – LU2DKN	T88LY via JJ1VLY – JQ2GYU
HC8ART via UA4WHX – DO1DXX	T88YU via JJ1VLY – JQ2GYU
HR9/WQ7R via K5WW – W4DN	V6T via JH1NBN – W3AWU
HVØA via IKØFVC – HVØA	VK6ISL via VE3LYC – PT7WA
J79SB via NI5DX – KL7SB	VK9XSP via SP6EQZ – LU3DKN
LX7I via LX2A – KB8NW	VP2EIM via JA1HGY – JA1HGY
NHØJ via JJ1VLY – JQ2GYU	XX9R via EB7DX – W3AWU
NHØZ via JJ1VLY – JQ2GYU	ZA/YU7CM via YU7CM – 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

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Unlicensed Religious Broadcaster Ordered Off The Air — Now

Newington, CT, January 26th, 2015 — The FCC has ordered an unlicensed California religious broadcaster, who sometimes broadcast on a frequency in the 40 meter phone band, to shut down his station.

The FCC's Los Angeles District Office on December 31st issued a [Notice of Unlicensed Operation](#) to Martin K. Elliott of Inyokern, California. The FCC said it issued the *Notice* in response to a complaint of unlicensed operation on multiple HF frequencies, including some allocated to aeronautical stations.

The FCC said its agents used radio direction-finding techniques to confirm that signals on 6280 kHz and 11,595 kHz were emanating from a residence located near Inyokern, and that property records indicated that Elliott was the current owner and resident.

"The Commission's records show that no license was issued for operation of a station on either the frequencies of 6280 kHz or 11595 kHz at this location," the FCC wrote. "Unlicensed operation of this radio station must be discontinued immediately."

The pirate station, which [identified](#) itself as "YHWH," was not cited for operating on Amateur Radio frequencies, although ARRL Official Observers had monitored the station in the past on 7185 kHz LSB. One short-wave listener said the operator of YHWH changed frequencies regularly, and the station had not been heard on the ham bands for at least several months.

The FCC warned Elliott that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid authorization violates federal law and could subject the operator to severe penalties, including, but not limited to, substantial monetary forfeitures, equipment seizure, and criminal sanctions.

The Commission gave him 10 days to respond. The FCC said its *Notice* "does not preclude this office from pursuing additional sanctions based upon our investigation of this incident."

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League Web News

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 29th, 2015 — Starting February 17th, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. In mid-December the FCC adopted [final procedures](#) to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as [proposed](#) in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives.

Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial "reference copy" — from the ULS License Manager.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

In [comments](#) filed November 5, the ARRL had strongly recommended that the FCC "give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

Under the new procedures, a new license applicant who already has an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and provides a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" in the ULS will receive an official ULS-generated electronic authorization via e-mail. New license applicants lacking an FRN will receive in the mail an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES).

New applicants will no longer automatically receive a license document and must request one by changing their "Paper Authorization Preference" in the ULS License Manager.

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on "standard, white recycled paper." The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact [FCC Support](#) via the web, telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

The FCC rejected as "outside the scope of this proceeding" an ARRL argument that Section 97.23 of the Amateur Service rules be amended to replace "licensee mailing address" with other alternatives, including e-mail, for use in Commission correspondence. The rule, which requires that any licensee mailing address be in an area where the licensee has US Postal Service access, has precluded FCC issuance of location-specific call signs in such areas as Navassa Island (KP1) and some Pacific islands.



Has Roadway found the tower yet?



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

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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

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All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

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
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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

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:
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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: _____



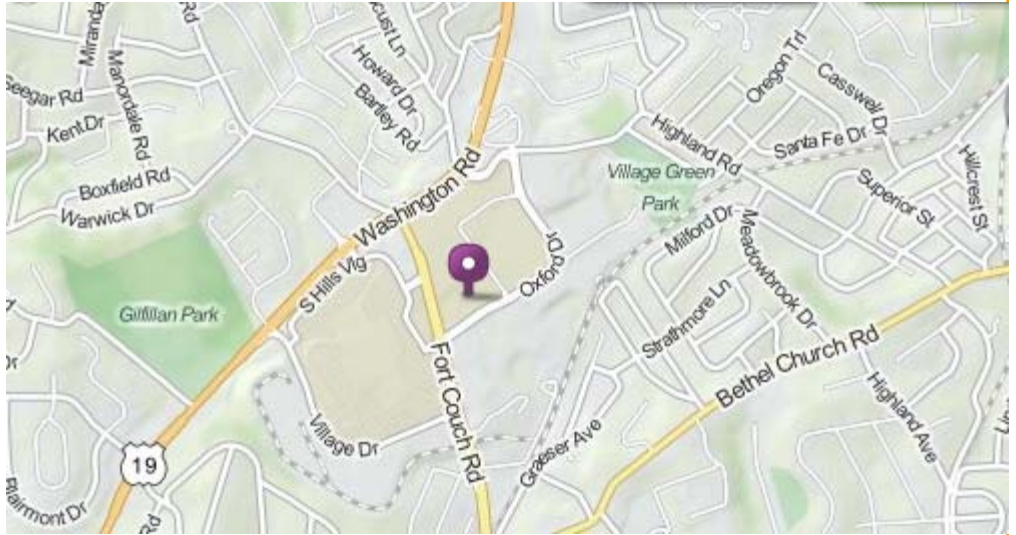
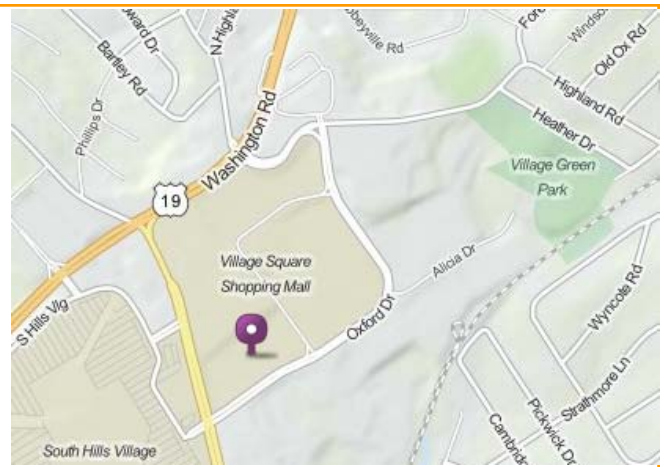
2015 WASH Meeting

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



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Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

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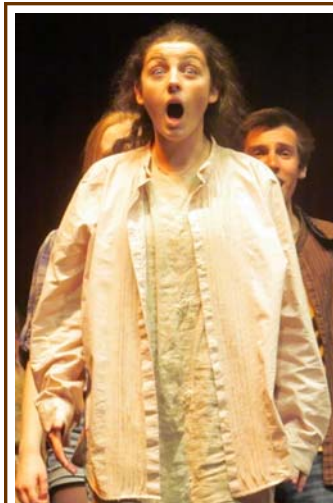


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**You're not
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WASHFest**

2015?

**Are you
kidding?**