



WASHRAG

TM



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 07
JULY 2015

Wireless Association of South Hills



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



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 07

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Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, July 2nd, 2015

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, July 2nd 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 N3SH Field Day 2015 wrap-up, the summer picnic, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: Larry Comden K3VX operating Bill W3WH's Scout on CW, Saturday afternoon at Field Day. Also seen in the background are Carol KB3GMN, Rick KB3IAC and Harold K3HCR. More **WASH** Field Day photos & articles inside!

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Ben Williams KB3ERQ

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 2016 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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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 July 16th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, July 16th, 2015, 7:00 PM, at **WPXI-TV Community Room**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are accepted. However, 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: Thursday, October 15th, 2015

Location: **WPXI Community Room**

Carol's Comments



Not to my surprise another successful Field Day for **WASH**. Despite the weather we pulled it off, but not with the help of numerous people.

We were ready at 2 PM Saturday and finished on Sunday at 2 PM. I very much would like to thank all who made this Field Day possible.

I myself had a great time. The food was Fantastic, thanks to Rick and Jan. From what I was told we did better than last year.

But we must remember, this is not a contest, but to see how we can perform under less than ideal conditions. And I will say that the conditions this year were unbelievably wet.

I know I have said this before but I have to say it again. This club always pulls it together when necessary. Our members are the best.

See you at the meeting on July 2nd.

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

The annual '13 Colonies Special Event' begins on June 30th, and runs thru July 5th. Operators make contacts with each of 13 Special Event Stations, representing each of the original 13 Colonies that formed the United States. Two bonus stations will be on this year, WM3PEN in Philadelphia, and GB13COL in England.

More information at <http://www.13colonies.info/>

Field Day morning brought out only a small gathering of The Usual Suspects to the regular monthly gathering of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. This month's posse roped in N3FB, KB3GMU, WB4GCS, KC4WTT and their grandson, N3IDH, W8LEV, and W3WN. Table talk covered the ATS30 demo in Cleveland, what is officially NOT a duck, good movies like "White Christmas", free buffet at the casino following the 4th of July fireworks show, ground lines for generators, finding the Field Day site, moms playing Nintendo with their sons, the new pipeline past the N3FB/R site, stealing copper wire, the N3FB/R site status, and loads more.

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, July 25th, as usual at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at 19, Canonsburg. (Since this is also Field Day weekend, there may be a "satellite" meeting at the South Park Eat 'n' Park as well.) 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. (We really don't want to fight the State Police for seats... we'd lose!) See you there?

We hear that the gang had a great time at the **Breezeshooter's Hamfest** this year. Sorry that we don't have any pictures of the club picnic to post at this time, it looks like no one remembered to take any! If any show up in the next few weeks, we'll put them in the August newsletter. (And our apologies to Radio Free Bob WC3O, who did send us some general photos of the hamfest — but not of the club picnic — that have been squeezed out for Field Day photos. We'll try to squeeze some of those into the August issue as well)

Same with any "straggler" photos or articles from N3SH **2015 Field Day**. Because of the tight deadline following FD weekend, a lot of people are still in the process of getting stuff to us... and we're running short of time. Speaking of which, our apologies in advance if we don't get every picture captioned prior to deadline. It's just been a very busy few weeks, for personal reasons... in any event, priority was put into getting the photos and articles in, and captions saved until last.

Reminder that we have a **VE Session** coming up in a few weeks. Help from any additional VE's greatly appreciated! For those who are not aware of this, the Element 3 General Class exam was replaced as of July 1st, and we have the new exams in hand! Our thanks again to WPXI for permitting us to use their Community Room for the exams, and to Frank N3FB for making the arrangements.

Do you have... the Knack? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60P1xG32Feo>

Now with Field Day over for another year, **what's coming up next?** From a Public Service standpoint, the annual Vintage Grand Prix weekend in Schenley Park is rapidly approaching — see page 14 for details. Quite a few summer and fall hamfests are on the calendar. The IARU HF Championship is in a few weeks, with most other major HF contests coming up in the fall. Before you know it, Pa QSO, Sweepstakes, and more will be falling into place. Now is the time to work on antennas, equipment, and otherwise get ready for a lot of fun activities (everything we mentioned and more!) coming up in the next few weeks.

On a personal note to close things off, Ye Editor wishes to also thank everyone who was involved in the Field Day planning and setup. Since my time was very limited this year, I wasn't able to hang around and help out as much as usual, let alone as much as I wanted. A lot of hard work was put in by a lot of people — Rick, Jan, Jim, Larry, Bill, Carol, and everyone else — and despite adverse weather conditions, we pulled together as a group and had a fantastic time. And when all is said and done, that's really what it's all about isn't it?

WASHNet 2015 NCS Schedule

07/05/2015	Carol KB3GMN	08/30/2015	Rick KB3IAC
07/12/2015	Dave N3DFK	09/06/2015	Bill W3WH
07/19/2015	Digital Night	09/13/2015	Bob AB3ED
07/26/2015	Fred KB3DCO	09/20/2015	Digital Night
08/02/2015	Glen KE7FD	09/27/2015	Carol KB3GMN
08/09/2015	Harold K3HCR	10/04/2015	Dave N3DFK
08/16/2015	Digital Night	10/11/2015	Fred KB3DCO
08/23/2015	Larry K3VX	10/18/2015	Digital Night

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

Minutes, June 8th Meeting

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

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:07 hours. 18 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 Rick KB3IAC, passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

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

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): Next VE Session at WPXI on July 16th. Thanks to N3FB for making the arrangements. VE's needed for the next session. No pre-registers yet, but some interest from potential new hams.

Repeaters (N3FB/KB3IAC):

- We are ready to put the link into the repeaters. We need to decide how we want them to operate. Leaving them linked all of the time can have issues.
- N3FB/R at the cemetery is linked to St. Clair. N3SH/R repeater on the North Side has been kind of orphaned; we want to connect that repeater.
- We have some needed site maintenance at the N3FB/R repeaters site.
- We want to put in some monitoring using a Raspberry Pi at N3SH/R at St. Clair Hospital to watch some issues.

A motion was brought forth to:

- Power supply motion by Rick KB3IAC, second by Harold K3HCR: Take \$550 from the maintenance fund to reimburse Frank for the repeater power supply. Passed unanimously
- Maintenance motion by Rick KB3IAC, second by Harold K3HCR, to reimburse our maintenance fund \$550 to bring it back up to \$1500. Passed unanimously.

WASHNet (KE7FD): No report.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): No report.

Field Day 2015 (K3VX):

- We didn't get enough interest to order the shirts we discussed. We talked about options including buying ARRL T-shirts. He will need color preference and sizes to place an order.
- There was discussion on who all has antennas to bring.
- Glen KE7FD asked people to contact Jim WB4GCS if they would be willing to bring a laptop to Field Day.
- Mark N3RDV asked about noise. Larry K3VX said that they went back to test and it was quiet. Possibly an inverter issue.
- Discussion was had on the food being available all night. Also on when the operation will be concluded. There should be an announced time, and people should know they will operate until that time.
- Glen KE7FD suggested that you bring your own headset. Also, using headsets keeps excessive noise down. We are all close to each other.
- Let Mark N3RDV know if we want ice; HE can get it for free.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report.

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Show me the money!

Newsletter (W3WN): No report.

President (KB3GMN): *Breezeshooter's* wrap-up: There were 14 main prizes, 3rd and 13th prize were won by Bill Hill W3WH, finally breaking his 50+ year old streak! We bought 50 tickets as a club, and the club won \$100!

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order: Gary KB3YCX talked about equipment from someone selling equipment for N3CKV.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Dave (?) and carried.

Meeting adjourned 20:26



WASH Spotlight: FD

Two emeritus cast members from "Riverdance", Carol KB3GMN and Jan KB3IVX, showed up at Field Day to share one of their famous dance numbers, "Gáire agus Leath Daft reflections san uisce" (Irish for "Laugh and Half Daft reflections in the water")

"The only picture I took at Field Day 2015!"

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2015
Glen Roberts KE7FD



Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter](#)

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

AB3GM	KB3IVX	N3IDH	WASH FL	WASH OH	Silent Keys
AB3NM	KB3JHR	N3KFD	KA3UPY/M	N8DPW	
AE3DL	KB3ORO	N3RDV	W4ZE	WASH SC	AB3KA
K3HCR	KB3PSB	N3RHT	WASH GA	N3RNK	K3EED
K3LGM	KC3DOF	N3SBF	K3OL	WASH TN	K3LIE
K3SGT	KC3ELA	NU3Q	KB3IJX	KE3XB	KA3NMG
K3VX	KC4WTT	W3LE	WASH NE	N3YPB	KB3ENX
KB3DCO	KE7FD	W3RWS	NØPEU	WASH TX	KB3FNM
KB3GMN	KI5ZT	W3VFA	WASH OR	K3LGM	KB3FQT
KB3GMP	N1NCZ	W3WH	NØVLR	Jane Wagner	N3FZ
KB3GMU	N2QIV	W3WN	NØWPV	WASH VI	N3HKQ
KB3GUZ	N3DFK	WA3VSS	KB3NVL	NP2JF	N3KEH
KB3IAC	N3FB	WB4GCS	KB3NVM		N3OBD

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

Through June 24th, 2015

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2015 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Meeting Topics & Other Significant Club Events — Subject to Change

July 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
July 10 th — 12 th	PVGP Historics @ PittRace	http://www.pvgp.org
July 11 th — 12 th	IARU HF World Championship	http://www.iaru.org
July 16 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
July 18 th	North Hills ARC Hamfest	http://www.nharc.org/
July 18 th — 19 th	PVGP Vintage @ Schenley Park	http://www.pvgp.org
July 19 th	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	http://www.k3smt.org
August 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
August 30 th	Skyview Radio Society Hamfest	http://www.skyviewradio.net
September 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 13 th	Butler Co ARA W3UDX Swapfest	http://www.w3udx.org/swapfest.htm
October 10 th — 11 th	Pennsylvania QSO Party	http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html
October 15 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
October 24 th — 25 th	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	http://www.cqww.com/
November 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
November 7 th — 9 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 21 st — 23 rd	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	http://www.arrl.org
November 28 th — 29 th	CQ WW DX Contest CW	http://www.cqww.com/
December 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
December 4 th — 6 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 12 th — 13 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 26 th — 27 th	Stu Perry Topband Challenge	http://www.kkn.net/stew/
December 31 st	ARRL Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org

N3SH Field Day - Setup

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Harold Rosenberg K3HCR



Hanging the Dipoles:

Left: Bill W3WH, Glen KE7FD, Fred KB3DCO

Right: Gene KB3JHR, Glen KE7FD, Fred KB3DCO



Setting up the kitchen:

Left: Jan KB3IVX, Rick KB3IAC, Carol KB3GMN

Right: Rick KB3IAC with the tower trailer in the background



Gang,

This was one of the best Field Days in my 64 years in Ham Radio.

The food, the set up and tear down crews, the operators and the general spirit all contributed to a great weekend.

Especially the FOOD. Thanks so much Rick and Jan.

Larry K3VX

Ditto

Bill W3WH

Ditto

Harold K3HCR

Ditto!!!!

Great FD, despite the rain.

Wish we'd had more than one station on until the end.

Rick and Jan are saints!

Jim WB4GCS

N3SH Field Day: Saturday Afternoon

Photos courtesy of & © 2015 Ben Williams KB3ERQ



WASH Field Day 2015 Stats

Rick Bell KB3IAC, Co-Field Day Chair

Here are some statistics from Field Day 2015:

- (1) We used two calls: N3SH & K3VX
- (2) We used 4 Bands
- (3) We used 3 Modes
- (4) N3SH used 3 stations: 2 – SSB Phone & 1 Digital (3A)
- (5) K3VX used 1 CW QRP Station
- (6) We rotated two digital stations from KE7FD & KB3DCO
- (7) No sunshine – No Solar Power
- (8) We did operate all transceivers on battery power (2,800 amps/35,280 Watts available)
- (9) Lighting and computational power supplied via gasoline fueled generator
- (10) We mobilized on-site at 9:00 AM (In the driving rain)
- (11) We were fully operational by Noon of Saturday (Still raining)
- (12) We had a full 24 hours of operation – 2 PM Saturday until 2 PM Sunday on SSB Phone (Rained most of the time)
- (13) As we left the site at 3:30 PM on Sunday the sun came out – Wouldn't have it any other way



BAND	MODE			Totals/
	CW	PHONE	DIGITAL	Band
15		29	13	42
20	53	16	25	94
40	181	189	72	442
80	114	2	11	127
	348	236	121	
	Totals Per Mode			

It was hard to pinpoint the number of operators – not everyone reset the operator/initials parameter when they operated. It looks like between 12 – 16 operators.

This chart (above right) illustrates the breakdown on contacts.

As you can see 40 meters appears to be the bread & butter band this year. Although there was a lot of activity on 20 meters, we were antenna poor on 20. We should strive to have multiple 20m & 40m antennas – a pair for each mode for next year.

Overall, it was a very successful Field Day in spite of the weather.

Thanks to all that supplied equipment, manpower, money, labor, and support to WASH for Field Day 2015.

WASH Field Day 2015

Bill Hill W3WH

Right after Field Day every year, I always realize that the year is half over.

Like the rest of the year, Field Day flew by and before I knew it it was finished. The whole package came together once again because of a great deal of time and effort invested prior to arriving at Woodland Crest in South Park. Of course, Rick and Jan Bell invest a huge amount of time and effort and expertise in preparing food for us to eat, as well as making sure we have all the little things that we need to make our operation successful, and some big things like batteries.

Larry Comden and I spent a fair amount of time earlier this year looking for acceptable sites, once we realized that the Outlook Grove would not be available to us. We all liked Outlook last year and many are still disappointed that we were not able to be there. Maybe next year?

Speaking of next year there is an offer on the table for us to operate on the campus of St. Clair Hospital. This is an intriguing possibility, and if it works out it will be a wonderful step forward in cementing our relationship with St. Clair Hospital — which, of course, is the home of our repeater. Time will tell if this will work out.

The biggest problem that we have every year is interference among the stations. We did our best to minimize this situation, but even by putting three dipole antennas in a line, which seems to help, interference was not eliminated. On Saturday afternoon, we directed a second fan dipole owned by Glenn KE7FD across the road from our shelter, and not only did it seem to work well, but it was far enough away to minimize interference. In total we had six antennas for four stations. Rick Bell mentioned that we were antenna poor for 20 meters, but we did have three antennas that potentially could have operated well on 20. I don't think we took advantage of them for 20 as well as we could have.

Once again this year, the CW portion of our effort was worked with five Watts QRP. The low-power doesn't seem to prevent us from working anyone we can hear, even though we may have to wait in line if one of our louder others is calling the same station at the same time. We ended up with about 350 contacts on CW, which I think was just a few more than we managed last year. This year we intended to use two CW stations, but due to a shortage of operators at the last minute, we changed from two CW stations down to one — and it probably turned out to be a good thing. We used a Ten Tec 555 Scout transceiver, which has been around for at least 25 years, and is a very simple bare-bones unit, but it performed admirably.

This year the phone/digital effort consisted of two single sideband stations and a digital station. To my recollection both efforts had more contacts than last year, especially the digital, which I think how about twice as many as last year. Way to go digital guys!

The food served by chefs Rick and Jan Bell was for all of us, I think, the highlight of the weekend, and really made the miserable weather a minor issue in everyone's mind. The ribs served for Saturday evenings meal were to say the least scrumptious and enjoyed by all who signed up for them.

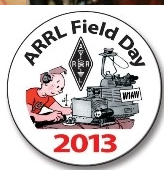
We had fewer visitors this year than last, but certainly we can blame that on the weather. All of us that were there for the duration or for a large part of the weekend thoroughly enjoyed ourselves as far as I know, and as I understand Jim Sanford to say if we can have food like this, let's have Field Day once a month! Field Day once a month is an interesting thought but it would probably get old very quickly.

All in all, it was a privilege and a pleasure to participate once again with the **WASH** Club, and thanks to all who helped make it a success.



N3SH Field Day: Saturday Evening

Photos courtesy of & © 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



Another Field Day Adventure of Carl & Quinn

Name Withheld at the request of Federal Authorities. Author has been entered in the Federal Witness Protection Program.

“S

o Carl, are we 2B or not 2B? That is the question I need to know." Quinn asked as he was setting up the logging software."

"No, that would be 2B." Carl replied messing with Quinn.

"Wait.. What? Huh? Oh..."

"And WPA. And don't forget to put your initials in there too. Remember what happened last time." Carl said reminding Quinn about the time everything was logged to operator "SSB", even the CW contacts which required a heavy dose of editing of the log file before it was sent to the ARRL.

"Quinn, we have the rest of the week to get things sorted out, and it's only Monday now... HEY! It's almost time for the net to start, turn your rig on." barked Carl tossing the Field Day packet aside.

Every Monday evening Carl and Quinn made sure they were on the air for the start time of 9 p.m. on 28.380 MHz for the Beam Shooters Net. Even if it meant giving up watching Monday Night Football or even more daring, slipping away from *Dancing With The Stars*, something both of their wives were addicted to. It might seem odd to some how both guys biological-body bathroom clocks were so regular week after week. However, Quinn almost bought the farm one week when upon his return (after checking into the net) to the couch where his wife sat glued to the star-studded gala, and he said, "I just love watching *Dancing with Wolves* with you hon". You'd have thought he had just punched a "tatanka" in the nose (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrGPW4O_5Cc). Fortunately for him, he recovered quickly by saying they should watch Costner's movie again AFTER the dancing competition finished up. She however, declined.

As roll-call progressed Quinn anxiously fumbled with the mic, then when their two calls were given, he responded with "Check us in and check us out". Upon which he killed the power to the radio and they both went their separate ways to sit next to their wives...

As the days passed drawing closer to Field Day, the boys excitement approached the giddiness of a Christmas morning. They used their time to secure food, batteries, soda, more food, antennas, rope, more food, and for a first this year, they were going to try using a weather balloon to raise a long wire antenna, something like a 7-halves wavelength 80 meter end-fed wire so they'd be able to use it on other bands. Oh, and more food.

To maximize their operating window they arose early Saturday morning and drove Quinn's replacement RV for the one that had been destroyed during the Two Meter contest January of 2014, up to the Cranberry, PA area, where Carl's uncle owned some old farmland, which Carl believed would be great for a Field Day location. Because the forecast called for the possibility of rain, the boys took no chances and brought extra weather balloons, figuring if the rain did fall, the extra lift from the additional balloons would counteract the weight of the rain adhering to the balloons.

Upon reaching the farm field, and blocking the wheels, Quinn set out the helium tanks while Carl carefully laid out two balloons, keeping two more balloons in reserve in case they needed replacements. However, when he opened the shipping boxes the balloons came in (for until now neither of the guys had bothered to inspect the balloons) a packing slip in the first of four boxes stated that the balloons they had ordered were out of stock and in their place stronger, larger balloons were sent at no additional cost. Both of the guys thought this was a win-win and would allow them to add their spare antenna, a rotatable tri-band dipole left over from a discarded yagi driven element. The rain seemed to be picking up so they both reasoned that if it's worth doing at all, it's worth overdoing and pulled out all four balloons connecting the tethers to a hook to which the long-wire antenna would later hung. They reasoned they would just lower the wire antenna when they decided to try the rotatable dipole. It took both of them the better part of an hour to lay out the other two balloons, connect the quick release helium tank valves, followed by the support line which Quinn tied off to the rear bumper of the RV. The balloons began to float a little bit as the helium hissed into the unfolding balloons.

The long insulated antenna wire was heavier than they thought remembered it being or perhaps it was the wet grass that tugged at the wire, but in either case it took both of them to drag the long wire out the length of 6 football fields. Many minutes later after dealing with some obstacles in a gully before emerging on the other side, they looked back and noticed the RV was gone. It only took a few seconds for Carl to spot the RV hanging by its rear bumper at the end of the support line that was attached to the now fully expanded weather balloons, floating away skimming the tree tops pushed along by the strong winds that were now picking up in the Cranberry area. Out of shape, neither of them was able to catch up to the now fast moving airborne RV as it headed towards a neighborhood.

Local news stations reported what was thought to be the touchdown of an EF0 tornado that knocked over trees in the Cranberry area. What could not be explained was the chrome bumper embedded deeply in the top of one trees bearing a license plate that simply read:

"When all else fails... Amateur Radio"

N3SH Field Day: Saturday Evening

Photos courtesy of & © 2015 Frank Bobro N3FB



ARRL Hurricane Season Webinar Set for July 20th

Mike Corey KI1U, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager, American Radio Relay League

The ARRL will host a 2015 Hurricane Season webinar Monday, July 20th, getting under way at 8 PM EDT (July 21, 0000 UTC). The approximately 90-minute session will address the role of Amateur Radio during the 2015 Hurricane Season. Anyone interested in hurricane preparedness and response is [invited to attend](#) this online presentation.

Topics will include a meteorological overview of the upcoming season; Amateur Radio station [WX4NHC](#) at the National Hurricane Center: Who We Are and What We Do; ARRL Media and Public Relations; the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)); the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#), and ARRL coordination and interface.

The program will include presentations by representatives of the National Hurricane Center and WX4NHC, the VoIP Hurricane Net, the HWN, [the Canadian Hurricane Centre](#), and the [ARRL](#). Webinar registration is open to all, but should be of particular interest to radio amateurs in hurricane-prone areas. The webinar will conclude with a Q&A session.

Online Registration can be found at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/280869512766308353>



A great opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio to the general public will be held on Saturday, July 18th at the *Frontiers of Flight Museum* in Dallas, TX. In commemoration of the anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, the museum has celebrated "Moon Day" for the last number of years as a STEM outreach specializing in astronomy, space science & space flight, past & future.

This year the Moon Day organizers decided to theme the day around the International Space Station. They applied for and were granted an ARISS scheduled contact to become part of the event. Keith Pugh W5IU is serving as ARISS mentor for the event and is working diligently on setting up all the details of this "Telebridge" contact.

General details can be found at <http://www.flightmuseum.com/moon-day-2015/>.

Pattern of Contact Padding Prompts Disqualification, CQ Review of Past Contest Logs

American Radio Relay League

The CQ World Wide Contest Committee [said in June](#) that it plans to review all past contest logs, after its investigation revealed a pattern of routine QSO padding on the part of one top-scoring CQ World Wide Contest operator. This follows in [the wake of the disqualifications](#) of some two dozen 2014 CQ WW SSB contest operators in April, and another 30 contestants in the 2014 CQ WW CW event. Among the latter group of DQs was the TO7A entry of Dmitry V. Stashuk, UT5UGR, of Kiev, Ukraine, for unclaimed use of assistance. TO7A had claimed the top Single-Operator, High Power score.



"During the public discussion around this disqualification, a section of the log on 160 meters was pointed out as being suspicious," the committee said. "Further checking revealed a run of 47 QSOs that were added to the log when TO7A could not be detected on the air by RBN [Reverse Beacon Network] or SDR recordings. In total, as many as 123 QSOs representing 22 additional multipliers were padded into the log." The CQ WW Contest Committee said the "particular pattern" of the suspicious contacts made it clear that they were added deliberately after the contest to fill in rest or break periods.

"Radiosport competition is built on a simple foundation — the expectation that all contacts are made over the air and correctly logged," the committee said. "Since operations are performed from the privacy of our stations and without supervision, we all trust that everyone is playing by the same rules."

The contest committee subsequently decided to dig more deeply into past contest logs submitted by UT5UGR, many of them competitive entries, including one for a record continental score, and it uncovered evidence of log padding going back to 2008, when UT5UGR placed third in the world in the Single-Operator, High Power category from V31WA in the CQ WW CW.

As a result, CQ has disqualified UT5UGR's entries in which they detected log padding and removed them from the official score database. In addition, any entry into a CQ-sponsored contest until July 2020 in which UT5UGR is the operator or listed as a participant will be reclassified as a check log.

UT5UGR's entries as TO7A into the 2009 and 2010 in the CQ WW SSB, and his 2011 and 2014 CQ WW 160 Meter Contest SSB entries under his own call sign have been disqualified. In addition to his 2008 V31WA CQ WW SSB entry from 2008, CQ also disallowed UT5UGR's TO7A 2014 CQ WW SSB and CW entries, as well as his TO7A entries in the CQ WW CW events in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

"This violation of the trust that underlies radiosport competition cannot be ignored," CQ said. The CQ WW Contest Committee has announced that new log checking processes are being developed to improve the detection of log padding. "We intend to test these methods against all submitted logs from 2011-2014. If other entries are found to have added unverifiable QSOs, we will address them on a case by case basis," CQ said.

"The CQ World Wide Contest Committee is committed to protecting the integrity of the competition as best as we can," the CQ post said, adding that it hoped the contesting community would do the same

A well-known voice in the Amateur Radio news media has gone silent.

Bill Pasternak WA6ITF, of Santa Clarita, California, died June 11th following a period of ill health. He was 73. Pasternak was co-founder (with Jim Hendershot WA6VQP) of *Amateur Radio Newsline™* (formerly *The Westlink Report*) ham radio news webcast and a frequent presence at Amateur Radio conventions.

Pasternak served as *Newsline's* managing editor and occasional newscaster for the program. Even while hospitalized earlier this year, he kept his ear to the ground for news from the Amateur Radio community, so he could pass it along to those who had taken over *Newsline* during his illness — discovered after he broke two ribs in a fall.

Pasternak was the spark plug behind the all-volunteer *Amateur Radio Newsline* bulletin — which was relayed on repeaters around the US and elsewhere — as well as the creator and administrator of the annual YHOTY. He was the author of three books and served as a writer/producer on several educational films and videos, including the award-winning "Amateur Radio Today." In earlier years, he wrote the "Looking West" column for *73 Amateur Radio Today Magazine* for 26 years and penned a "VHF, FM and Repeater" column for *WorldRadio*. He also contributed to broadcast trade publications as well as to CQ.

In addition to the ARRL, Pasternak belonged to the Radio Club of America and the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

DX News Briefs



N2TU & K9CT announced at the 2015 Visalia International DX Convention a DXpedition to **KH5 Palmyra**. Call to be announced (probably a 1x1.) They have permission to operate from the Cooper Island in the Atoll from 11—26 January 2016. They have recruited a team of highly experienced and veteran operators, with plans to operate 5 stations on 160—6 on CW, SSB & Digital modes. Donations are being solicited, and more information can be found at Palmyra2016.org — N2TU, K9CT

"Many DXers across the globe will recall that **Bill Moore NC1L** had a serious car accident a year ago. Up until this tragic turn of events, Bill headed up the DXCC desk replying personally to any questions we may have had. Bill's accident has left him paralyzed from the chest down. He is confined to a wheelchair or his bed. He does read emails but replying to them is difficult now. 12 months on we think a greeting from friends and well wishers will go a long way to helping him in his recovery.

You can email Bill at BillMooreNC1L@gmail.com or send a card to his home address: Bill Moore NC1L, 92 Reservoir Road, Newington CT 06111" — DX World

K7TD will be QRV 3 – 13 July as **HH2TD**, HF & 6, mainly CW. He will use **4VØHQ** in the IARU HF Championship. QSL via K7TD – K7TD

E51AGY will be QRV from OC-013 6 July – 4 August, HF, CW only. QSL via ZL2AGY – ZL2AGY

OJØS will be QRV from Market Reef 11 – 18 July, weather conditions permitting, 80 – 10, CW & SSB. QSL via OHØAA --OHØFM

ZL3GA will be QRV as **YJØGA** OC-035 21 – 27 July, 40 – 10 meters. QSL via ZL3GA – ZL3GA

V29SH will be QRV from NA-100 28 July – 8 August. QSL via VE6SH – VE6SH

5H3DX will be operated by NK8O 1 September – 1 October, HF, mostly CW. QSL via EA7FTR – NK8O

N7QT will be QRV as **E51MAT** from OC-014 (E5/N) 29 September – 27 October, 160 – 10, CW SSB & RTTY. QSL via N7QT – N7QT

W6NV plans to be QRV from Saint Helena, tentatively as **ZD7N**, in October 2015. He will then be QRV from Ascension Island as **ZD8W** 6 November – 4 December. QSL via W6NV – W6NV

A group of Polish operators will activate Mahe island (AF-024) 3 – 18 October as **S79SP**, 160 – 6 CW SSB & RTTY. QSL via SP6FXV – SP6FXV

An international team will be QRV as **VK9WA** from Willis Islets OC-007 14 – 23 November. More info at <http://vk9wa.com/> QSL via N7SMI – VK9WA

QSL Routes

4M4C via YV4YC — DBØSDX	FM4LV via W3HNK — LU2DKN
4X7R via 4X6OM — DBØSDX	HC8/G8OFQ via HA3JB — G8OFQ
5H3DX via EA7FTR — NK8O	IQ9ZZ via 9A8AOT — DBØSDX
5K4R via N4RR — DBØSDX	J68HS via WB4WXE — WB4WXE
5P9X via OZ9GA — DBØSDX	J79XE via WB4WXE — WB4WXE
5V7BD via DJ6SI — JA1HGY	J87GU via DL7VOG — DL7VOG
7QAA via N7RO — JA1HGY	OJØB via OH2BH — OH2BH
9N7CW via ZL3CW — DBØSDX	OV5O via OZ9XU — DBØSDX
C4HQ via CARS — CARS	PJ5A via MØURX — DBØSDX
CR6K via CT1ILT — DBØSDX	SE5L via SM5ALJ — DBØSDX
CO8LY via EA7ADH — CO8LY	SF3A via SM3CER — DBØSDX
DL/N2WB via N2OO — N2OO	SO8FH via PAØF — DBØSDX
EE5O via EA4URO — DBØSDX	UN1L via W3HNK — W3HNK
E11A via PA3249 — ON4EI	V6Z via N3SL — JA1HGY
E18GQB via PA3249 — ON4EI	XM3R via VE3MIS — DBØSDX
EP2C via ON4AMX — KB8NW	Z21GC via K3IRV — DBØSDX

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, 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



More WASH Field Day Thanks:

We overcame the difficulties of the weather and location. Extra thanks to Jim WB4GCS and Frank N3FB for the lighting and power distribution and all the tarp contributors.

To Dave N3DFK for the logging network, to Bill W3WH and all the antenna workers, Rick KB3IAC for the batteries and everything else he does.

And to all others who made this a success.

For next year, please suggest locations where we can actually use the Tower-Trailer, so the committee can reserve the best early.

73, Larry Comden K3VX



FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, June 12th, 2015 — Leaders of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee have reached agreement with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to amend the Commission's plans — announced in March — to close FCC field offices. Under the revised plan, the FCC will keep 15 of its 24 field offices open. The plan would "ensure better rapid response capabilities for the West, provide a mechanism for escalating interference complaints, improve enforcement of the FCC's rules against pirate radio operators, and prevent the Commission from transferring field office jobs to FCC Headquarters," a Committee media release said. The FCC has been under pressure from lawmakers and others to step back from the its plan to close two-thirds of its field offices.

"We found a good solution that makes sense. These changes will keep field offices open in strategic locations and help ensure that the commission can fulfill its responsibilities to the public and public safety communities," said Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden, W7EQI. "This agreement strikes a balance between the important work of FCC field agents and streamlining field operations to ensure the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Positive outcomes often result from collaborative work. This agreement represents just such an effort."

As a result of the announced agreement a June 11 hearing of Walden's subcommittee to address the proposed closings was cancelled. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was among those prepared to testify at the session.

The closure plans were revealed earlier this year via an apparently leaked internal FCC Enforcement Bureau (EB) memorandum that indicated Bureau planned to ask the full Commission to cut two-thirds of its field offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its field agents. At the same time, the Bureau would develop a so-called "Tiger Team" of field agents as a flexible strike force it could deploy as needed.

After the League learned of the field office closure plans, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed dismay at the proposals, coming "at a time when the Field staff is facing ever-increasing challenges." Sumner also had expressed concern "that there is already no sense of urgency in the FCC's enforcement activities targeting spectrum polluters, such as utilities with noisy power lines, or the few violators in our own ranks." The League has been working behind the scenes at the FCC and on Capitol Hill to make a case that more enforcement leads to better compliance in all services.

Under the proposals, initiated last fall, the field office geographic footprint would have been reduced from 24 sites to 8 sites, with the EB set to "pre-position" equipment in several other strategic locations. Offices already slated to remain open are New York City; Columbia, Maryland — the site of the Bureau's HF Direction-Finding Center; Chicago; Atlanta; Miami; Dallas; Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The other offices the FCC plans to keep open were not announced.

"Communities across America will continue to be served, even as the Commission becomes more efficient — it's a win-win," said House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton of Michigan. "It also demonstrates how much we can accomplish when we work together to tackle the many tough issues we face."

Edson PY2SDR requests fellow amateur satellite operators listen for a downlink signal from NanosatC-Br 1, the first Brazilian CubeSat. NanosatC-BR1 was launched on a Dnepr rocket from Dombrovsky in 2014.

The 1U CubeSat carries an ISIS U/V transceiver with 1200 bps FM AX.25 UHF command uplink and a 9600 bps BPSK downlink on 145.865 MHz.

NanosatC-BR1, is experiencing battery issues for the last several months and it now seldom emits a beacon in CW. For some time, Paulo PV8DX, was able to detect a beacon signal when the satellite was over the Caribbean sea during daylight. But now, no more signals have been detected.

Edson would like to request assistance from hams in the northern hemisphere to see if NanosatC-BR1 is still transmitting any signals. Any help will be much appreciated.

— AMSAT News Service & Edson PY2SDR

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

A Field Day (1964) Story Steve Morris W5BIB

My LAST Field Day was in 1964. I had just joined the Navy in Feb. of '64 & June, found me in Pensacola, Fla. On the base (Corry Field) our club station was WA4ECY (Naval Communications Training Center) & we had about 7 or 8 active members. Under the guidance of our Chief, we headed out to our *Perdido Bay* FD site.

Arriving early Saturday morning to set-up, everything went great !! We operated until late Saturday night & turned-in. Sleep was impossible !!! Mosquitoes were dive-bombing us all night !! The over-night low temperature was about 86 degrees with 90% humidity !!

Sunday morning, we said 'screw this' !! We packed everything up & headed back to base planning on finishing FD from the base shack.

WA4ECY was located about a city block away from the base Chapel. We weren't supposed to operate until after Chapel services were over around noon, due to RFI into the chapel organ. At the time, the club station ran Hallicrafters gear (KW out) & a 3-element beam up about 70 ft.

Well,... (having lost track of day/time)... at about 1030a.m., We cranked it up & called **CQ FD, this is WA4ECY...**

About 10 minutes later,... the base C.O. called the ham-shack demanding us to 'cease operations' !!!

It seems as tho,... our *killerwatt* had infiltrated the chapel organ just as the Chaplin was preaching & said something like;... **And the LORD saith...**

At that precise moment... **CQ field day, CQ field day,... This is WA4ECY** blasted out thru the organ speakers !!!

We got off with a verbal reprimand,...

After all was said & done,... in retrospect, it was sooo funny. That's my story, & I'm stickin' to it.



Amateur Radio Operators Needed for the 2015 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix



The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is seeking Amateur Radio operators to work the Flag & Safety corners, and provide race communications for the 2015 PVGP events.

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

The Historic Race Weekend on July 10th - 12th, at Pitt Race (formerly BeaverRun Motorsports Complex) in Beaver Falls, featuring Muscle Cars & European Racers from the 60's & 70's,



The Vintage Race Weekend on July 18th & 19th, in Schenley Park in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, featuring sports cars from the early days of automobiles through the 1950's.

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





WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____) →
(check one) ↓

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<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
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☐ 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]

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Call Sign: _____

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ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all 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



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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
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Name: _____

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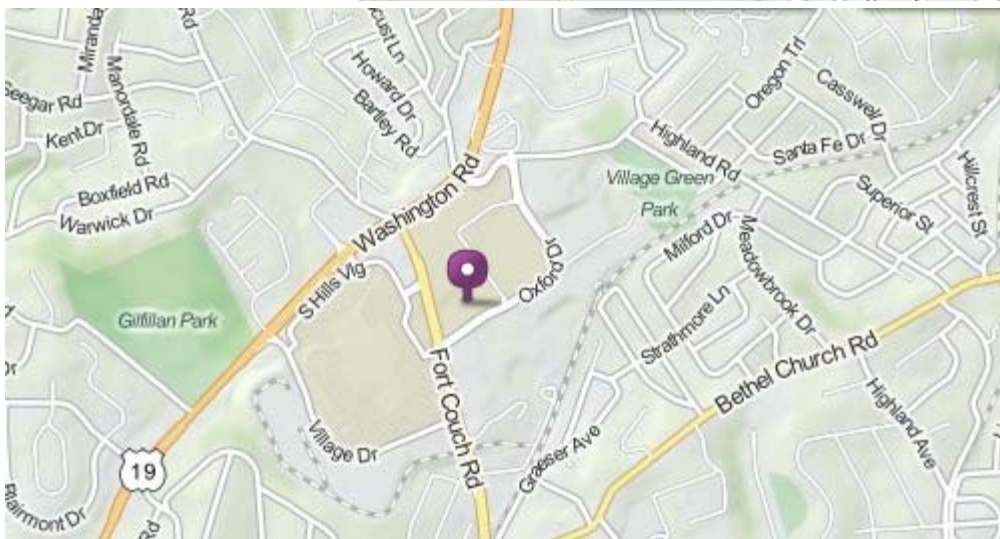
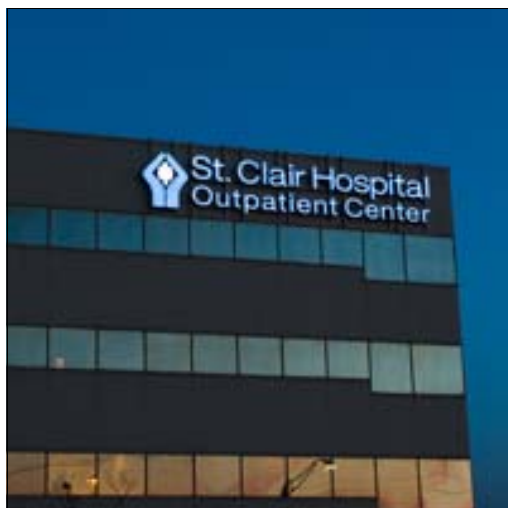
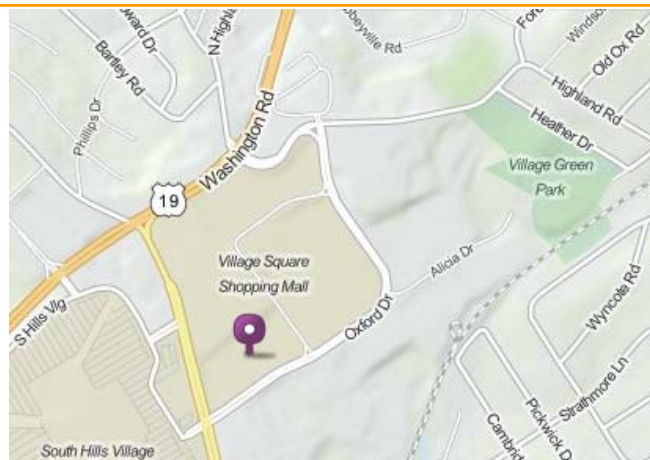
2015 WASH Meeting

Location

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



The WASHRag

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Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

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