



WASHRAG



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 08
AUGUST 2015

Wireless Association of South Hills



KB3TOA



KB3KQM



KB3HVN

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 08

AUGUST 2015

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, August 6th, 2015

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, August 6th 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 the summer picnic, Pa QSO, other fall activities, and more. See you there!

Cover Photos: For the 33rd year, Amateur Radio Operators provided communications for the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix in Schenley Park. Inserts show Doug KB3TOA, Kathy KB3KQM (handing out pins, to help out Corky N3MJP), and Dan KB3HVN interacting with one of the Patrons Parking organizers at Corner 18. More photos on Page 11!

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 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 October 15th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, October 15th, 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.net

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)

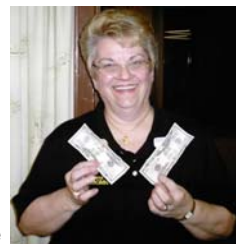
Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

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

Future test dates: Sunday, February 28th, 2016

Location: **WASHFest 2016**
Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

Carol's Comments



Now that Field Day is over, we can look forward to our next event... which is our annual **WASH** club picnic.

It will take place on Sunday, September 13th, at the Woodland Crest Grove, the same place where we had Field Day. It will start at 1:00 PM until evening. I will be sending out an email to see who will be attending and what you may be bringing.

Then, we can move right along to Pennsylvania QSO Party. It falls on the 10th and 11th of October. I am looking forward to this contest, as it is my favorite! It is a fun contest for anyone to do.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting on Thursday, August 6th.

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

Berkely, CA has passed an ordinance demanding that all cell phone stores warn their clients that cell phones COULD be hazardous to the buyers health... even though there is no scientific evidence to back up this claim. According to a recent [New York Times](#) article, supporters of the measure admit that the science isn't "firm" but believe that the warnings are warranted anyway.

So which is faster, Route 19, or I-79? W3WN & K3VX ended up testing that on their way 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. From the light at Connor Road, Larry took 19, Ron cut over to 79. And the winner was... virtually a draw, as Larry pulled in a few seconds first. So it goes. After that prequel for the PVGP, the gathering covered WB4GCS, KC4WTT, K3HCR, K3VX, N3DFK, W3WH, KB3JHR, KB3YCX, N3BPP & W3WN. Topics covered pictures of Midway, the effects of shingles, "just like a WI winter", buying an Eagle?, thoughts on possible future operating from St. Clair Hospital (Pa QSO, SET, etc), PVGP operating, putting up a tower in Mt. Lebanon, SUV as the next car, how's Jack?, Domain renewals, copyrighted music online, remembering an unlucky Omni VI, advice on antennas, pictures of grandkids, traffic on 519, WA3COM Field Day, W3R setup, IOTA op to Neville Island, FPV or SteppiR in the front yard, "my Zoning Board's more critical than Mt. Lebanon's", copper J-Pole antennas... and much, much more.

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, August 30th, 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?

With the USAir Flight Operations Center in Moon closing, many people are being transferred to American Airlines center in Dallas, TX. **One of those being transferred** is **Greg Babin NB3C** (ex KQ3DX/KD3JB), who will be leaving us this month. Greg is a sometime member of **WASH**, long time newsletter editor for W3KWH, and has been organizing our annual Dayton excursion for years. To say that he will be missed is an understatement. We all wish him well; if you hear Greg on the air before he leaves, tell him so yourself!

We've also heard from **Brian K3OL**, who's told us that he's relocated to TN, and his son **Christopher KB3IJX** is now in TX. Good luck in the new digs, guys!

On July 3rd, Frank N3FB and Bill W3WH met with Rick Beinhauer from Woodruff Partners LLP, regarding the **N3FB/R repeater site** at Scenery Hill. Good news! The meeting produced an agreement that the repeater can stay on the property, and that a written agreement covering the details will soon be in place. More details on this will be available at the August club meeting.

Rick KB3IAC has been able to reserve the following **meeting dates** at the St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center for the **next 12 months**, starting in October... go ahead and put these on your calendar now:

October 1st, November 5th, December 3rd, January 7th, February 4th, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th and September 1st.

Seems almost funny to be talking about this in August, but we are a little over 2 months away from the annual Pennsylvania QSO Party. Members of **WASH** have been making good showings in the PaQP for many years now, so let's keep 'the streaks' alive. If you have something planned, let us know. If you don't, maybe it's time to think about it, or join up with someone looking for a few ops!

The weekend after PaQP is the annual **BSA Jamboree on the Air**. This is another annual event that many club members have participated in over the years. This is a great way to introduce Scouts to Amateur Radio, and can be a lot of fun. If you're interested in participating, check out the JOTA page at <http://jotajoti.info/>, or let us know and we'll see who or how we can get you hooked up with someone participating this year.

WASHNet 2015 NCS Schedule

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 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 |
| 08/30/2015 | Rick KB3IAC | 10/25/2015 | Glen KE7FD |
| 09/06/2015 | Bill W3WH | 11/01/2015 | Larry K3VX |
| 09/13/2015 | Bob AB3ED | 11/08/2015 | Harold K3HCR |
| 09/20/2015 | Digital Night | 11/15/2015 | Digital Night |

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

Minutes, July 2nd Meeting

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

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:04 hours. 13 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 Bill WA3VSS, 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. One pre-register, plus some interest from potential new hams.

Repeaters (N3FB):

- Repeating
- Further discussion on the location & structure issues at the N3FB/R site. Frank discussed plans for a new building and approximate costs.
- Frank & Bill will be meeting with a rep from Beinhauer's tomorrow, WRT reaching a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize our use of the site.
- Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Harold K3HCR, that the club support the site upgrades up to 2/3 of \$2000 (approximately \$1350) pending the MOU. Passed unanimously.

WASHNet (KE7FD): Carol KB3GMN is NCS for this coming Sunday,

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): "Doing great!"

Contests (K3VX): Pa QSO is the next big event for **WASH**. 13 Colonies Special Event ongoing right now, through Sunday, July 5th..

Field Day 2016 (K3VX):

- Discussion regarding where to hold FD 2016. We are looking at either doing something with/at St. Clair Hospital, or returning to South Park — or possibly both, depending on how things are worked out with SCH. No decision made, or consensus reached, on the FD 2016 location.
- More CW ops are needed for FD 2016, regardless of the site(s).
- Further discussion regarding possible South Park site(s), if we choose to go there. General consensus that Outlook Grove was preferable. Larry brought up that reservations for the groves can now be filed one full year before the event, so we might have to move quickly to reserve a grove; the one we want might not be available if we wait too long. Hand vote called for to see if Larry should try to get Outlook or Woodland Crest, with the understanding that we won't necessarily use it. 9 votes for Outlook, 4 votes for Woodland Crest.

Public Service (N3IDH): Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is coming up this month. Corky N3MJP looking for volunteers to help with the corner communications. Jeff N3NHS is helping Corky contact amateurs this year.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): No report.

President (KB3GMN):

Wanted everyone to know that she meant everything she said in last month's column. The purpose of Field Day shouldn't be lost—under bad conditions, we pulled it off. She is very proud to be a member of **WASH**, very proud of our club, we always manage to pull it together.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion by Glen KE7FD, second by Bill W3WH, for the club to buy a \$50 gift card in thanks to Kelly Alderson, for his loan of batteries to **WASH** Field Day for the last few years. Passed unanimously. Follow-up discussion that someone will need to speak with Rick KB3IAC to find out the appropriate card and how to get it to Mr. Alderson.

Good of the Order: None

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Fred KB3DCO and carried.

Meeting adjourned 19:52



WASH Spotlight: KB3HVN

Among the perks of working a corner at the PVGP, sometimes we get to interact with the more... colorful... patrons who come out and play with their cars.

Here's Dan KB3HVN, explaining the meaning of the Pink Flamingoes

located at Corner 18 to this curious young lady.

Photo courtesy of and ©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

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|----------|-------------|----------------|
| AB3GM | KB3IVX | N3IDH | WASH FL | WASH SC | Silent Keys |
| AB3NM | KB3JHR | N3KFD | KA3UPY/M | N3RNX | |
| AE3DL | KB3ORO | N3RDV | W4ZE | | AB3KA |
| K3HCR | KB3PSB | N3RHT | WASH NE | WASH TN | K3EED |
| K3LGM | KC3DOF | N3SBF | NØPEU | K3OL | K3LIE |
| K3SGT | KC3ELA | NU3Q | WASH OR | KE3XB | KA3NMG |
| K3VX | KC4WTT | W3LE | NØVLR | N3YPB | KB3ENX |
| KB3DCO | KE7FD | W3RWS | NØWPV | WASH TX | KB3FNM |
| KB3GMN | KI5ZT | W3VFA | KB3NVL | K3LGM | KB3FQT |
| KB3GMP | N1NCZ | W3WH | KB3NVM | KB3JX | N3FZ |
| KB3GMU | N2QIV | W3WN | WASH OH | Jane Wagner | N3HKQ |
| KB3GUZ | N3DFK | WA3VSS | N8DPW | WASH VI | N3KEH |
| KB3IAC | N3FB | WB4GCS | | NP2JF | 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

2015/16 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 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 5 th | 66 th Uniontown ARC Gabfest | http://www.w3pie.org |
| 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 |
| September 13 th | WASH Club Picnic | Woodland Crest Grove, South Park |
| October 1 st | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| October 3 rd — 4 th | 50 th California QSO Party | http://www.cqp.org |
| October 10 th — 11 th | 58 th Pennsylvania QSO Party | http://www.nittany-arc.net |
| October 15 th | WASH VE Exams | WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA |
| October 16 th — 18 th | BSA Jamboree on the Air | http://jotajoti.info/ |
| October 24 th — 25 th | CQ WW DX Contest SSB | http://www.cqww.com/ |
| November 1 st | WACOM Hamfest | http://www.wacomarc.org |
| 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 |
| January 7 th | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| February 4 th | | |
| March 3 rd | | |
| April 7 th | | |

US Islands on the Air— Neville Island 2015

Bill Hill W3WH

US
isl

Quite a few years ago, probably more than 10, when Pete Cole N3RX and Steve Lane W3SRL were both active in the club, several members participated in a couple of US Islands adventures. We activated 14 Mile Island on the Allegheny River (PA-038R). and if you look in the [US Islands](#) website you'll see that N3SH is [credited with activating that island](#). We also operated from Herr's Island, more popularly known as Washington's Landing.

Another operation which really bombed out took place on Neville Island. Several of us arrived on a school athletic field/ playground and set up a couple of stations. Before the US Islands event started we worked quite a few people and all seemed right with the world. Just about the time the contest was to begin there was a massive solar flare and we could hear no one. We couldn't even hear WWV which generally speaking is always copyable.

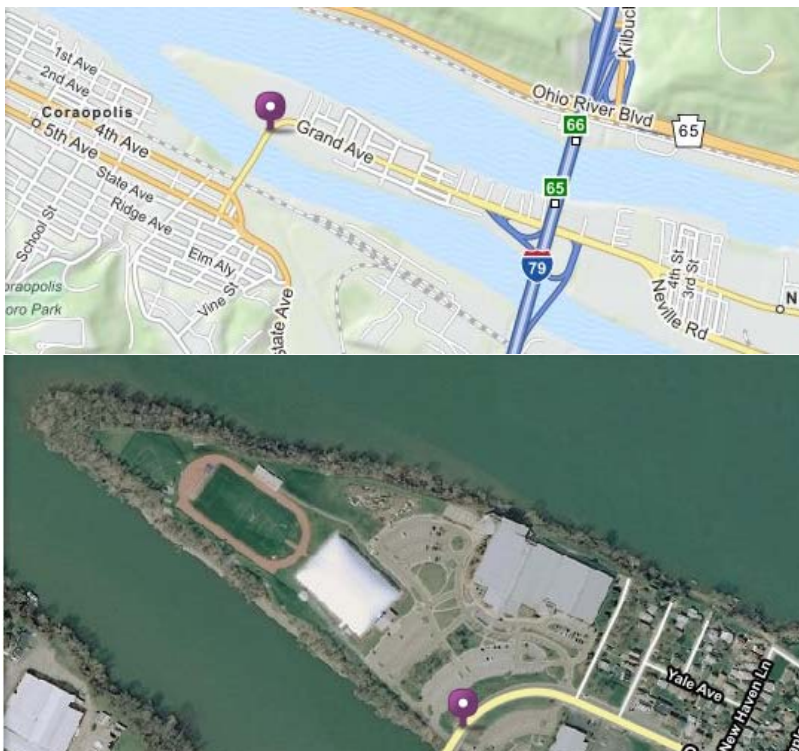
Earlier this month, Carol KB3GMN forwarded an email that the Steel City Amateur Radio Club received, announcing the annual [US Islands W/VE Islands QSO Party](#), which will take place on August 29th and 30th. Since nothing much is going on, club wise or operating event –wise between Field Day and the Pennsylvania QSO Party, the US Islands event seems perfect for summer time outing.

On Saturday, July 25th, Larry Comden, K3VX and I took a ride up to Neville island and scouted the [Robert Morris University complex](#) there that is built on a reclaimed site. Boy are they busy up there between hockey, soccer, tennis, miniature golf etc. Lots of people were enjoying the sunshine of the July afternoon.

Anyway, we looked around, and saw couple of areas that would be appropriate and convenient for us to set up an antenna and operate for a few hours in the upcoming US Islands event. We consulted with the employee in charge of miniature golf as to whether or not we could have permission to operate from there and he said absolutely he would give us permission. We asked if we should check with higher authorities; he's suggested that that might cause more problems for us than it would solve, so we all agreed to accept his recommendation that we should come and operate and enjoy ourselves.

What Larry and I have in mind is setting up one station using my [Crank IR](#) portable antenna or any other antenna that someone would like to bring along and try out and operate for a few hours on Saturday afternoon August 29th.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating. I'll also bring this up at our next meeting, so that we can talk about it and answer any questions that you may have.



A Radio Officer in the Merchant Marine

[Mette K. Ofstand](#) translated by Stadskleiv Jørn Olav LB5KE

I was 19 and full of hunger for adventure. I went to the Marine Training School in Oslo for 10 months to become a radio officer. The sound of Morse Code "di-dah di da dit" was glued to my brain. So was the operation of radio receivers, transmitters and procedures. It was all stuck in my brain. I was ready for the world and the world was ready for me.

I went to Europe, USA, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and South-America. At that time exotic places far away for such a young girl.

The occupation as an radio officer was exciting. Every day, I received and sent messages, from the captain, or i received instructions from the shipowners back in Norway or their agents in other countries.

I had to listen to a whole lot of coastal station to see if my call sign showed up. When we ware far out away from the cost, i had to listen to the emergency channel twice an hour to listen for ships in distress. At night the listening was done by an "Auto-alarm" The captain wanted weather reports at least twice a day, often more in bad weather.

The American coastal stations sent Morse code at a tremendous speed. I had to push extra hard on the typewriter because i used Carbon paper to get 3 copies. I also received news broadcast sent out from Norway by Morse. The crew was always hungry from news back home.

Before we went in to every harbor, i was in contact with the shipping agent regarding how much each crew member should have in salary. I was also responsible for arrange sight seeings. We arrange sight seeings in many places and spent many hours in Disneyland. We also went to see a lost Inca village Machu Picchu.

My work was a long and lasting adventure.

The occupation that was started by Marconi and Morse and who perhaps had it's peak in the 60s is to day replaced by new or perhaps better technology??? A sad and wistfully fact.



"Seen" at the July Meeting Photos courtesy of & © 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



Possible Phase 3E Opportunity AMSAT News Service

Virginia Tech has approached the US Government to fly the Phase 3-E space frame into High Earth Orbit (HEO) in order to support scientific payloads as well as serve as an amateur radio satellite. During the AMSAT-DL Annual Meeting on 4 July 2015, the AMSAT-DL membership approved the concept, agreeing to allow the Phase 3-E space frame that is currently stored in Germany to be shipped to Virginia Tech in the USA for further construction, testing and preparation for eventual launch to HEO, should the US Government formally agree to fund such a mission.

Should the project move forward, AMSAT-NA will apply for frequency coordination from the IARU Satellite Advisor and satellite licensing from the FCC as the satellite's initial operator.



Researchers Decode CASSIOPE Satellite Field Day Fly-Over Experiment Results

American Radio Relay League

The University of Calgary's "Enhanced Polar Outflow Probe ([ePOP](#)) Radio Receiver Instrument (RRI)" on the [CASSIOPE](#) satellite was able to detect several ARRL Field Day stations on June 28. The RRI listened on 80 and 40 meter segments. Virginia Tech graduate researcher Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF, said that during the first 25 seconds of 7 MHz reception, he and his team aurally decoded and identified 23 stations, most in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana, before the signals "abruptly disappeared." He said very few signals were detected on 80 meters.

"This experiment was designed to simply test the feasibility of conducting HF Amateur Radio-satellite ionosphere and propagation studies," Frissell told ARRL. "These results show that this is feasible, and that it is possible to detect interesting geophysical features." The others involved in the analyzing the results were Gareth Perry of the University of Calgary; Ethan Miller, K8GU, of Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab; Magdalena Moses KM4EGE, of Virginia Tech, and [CW Skimmer](#) developer Alex Shovkoplyas VE3NEA.

The sudden disappearance of signals on 40 meters, Frissell said, suggests that CASSIOPE was passing over regions of differing ionospheric electron densities. "The plasma frequency of the ionosphere is directly proportional to the square root of the electron density," he explained. "Signals transmitted from Earth and vertically incident on the ionosphere will be reflected back to Earth at the altitude where the plasma frequency matches the transmitted frequency. A satellite flying above this layer will be shielded from the signals below." The ePOP experiment on CASSIOPE is a suite of eight instruments that study the outflow of plasma from the ionosphere into near-Earth geospace.

Frissell has [documented](#) the group's results in a presentation, "ePOP RRI Observations of Amateur Radio Transmissions."

Frissell said that at the time of the satellite's pass, the peak plasma frequency was 6.950 MHz at roughly 290 km altitude, as measured by the Millstone Hill ionosonde in Westford, Massachusetts. "If the conditions were similar to what CASSIOPE was experiencing at its location, it would be able to hear the 7 MHz signal but not the 3.5 MHz signals," he said. "This is, in fact, what we observe."

He said the 7 MHz signals abruptly disappeared once CASSIOPE reached 42° N latitude. "We believe it is likely the satellite was above an ionospheric layer that had a plasma frequency greater than 7 MHz, thereby shielding the satellite from the ground transmissions," he said. "Unfortunately, ionosonde data near this point in the trajectory is not currently available." He said an International Reference Ionosphere 2000 (IRI-2000) model run tended to support the plasma frequency-shielding hypothesis. He and his fellow researchers plan to follow up with more thorough modeling and analysis.

The researchers were able to [record](#) signals appearing within a 30 kHz band segment on 40 meters (7010-7040 kHz) in a special .wav file that required [CW Skimmer](#) multi-channel CW decoding and analysis software to decipher and identify individual stations. Frissell said [CW Skimmer](#) detected more than 23 signals, but after the results were checked manually, it was determined that the software was unable to accurately identify some individual stations. "CW Skimmer automated detection had difficulty in this case because of the flutter present in the signals observed by the satellite," Frissell said. He explained that flutter is fast, chaotic amplitude and frequency modulation of the CW carrier. (An [audio file](#) of Field Day participant WR9Y, extracted via [CW Skimmer](#), provides an idea of what the RRI actually was hearing.)

"In conclusion," Frissell said, "we believe this was a successful experiment that provides an interesting view of a possible plasma density transition region, as well as a basis for designing future HF Amateur Radio-satellite ionospheric experiments."

CASSIOPE (CAscade Smallsat and IOnospheric Polar Explorer) is a Canadian-designed and built satellite. It has two primary tasks — a telecommunications technology demonstration, and a science mission — the latter carried out by the ePOP. Funded by the Canadian Space Agency, CASSIOPE is operated by a community of Canadian and US scientists from more than a dozen institutions. ePOP operations are headquartered at the [University of Calgary](#).



"On The Cheap" Satellite Still Going..

At just a few months shy of turning 2 years old, the [\\$50SAT](#) Amateur Radio "[PocketQube](#)" microsatellite — also known as Eagle 2 (MO-76) — is still operating, although it's not entirely well either. The satellite, which transmits on 437.505 MHz at a power of 100 mW, may be heard using a handheld transceiver, but it does not include a transponder.

Launched in late 2013 from Russia, \$50SAT is a collaborative education project of Prof Bob Twiggs, KE6QMD, of Kentucky's Morehead State University, and three other radio amateurs — Howie DeFelice, AB2S; Michael Kirkhart, KD8QBA, and Stuart Robinson, GW7HPW. Formerly of Stanford University, Twiggs and Jordi Puig-Suari of Cal Poly are the co-inventors of the CubeSat model. \$50SAT's stated purpose was to evaluate if the PocketQube form factor offered a cost-effective means for engineering and science students to use in developing real-world skills. The "\$50" is a bit of a misnomer. The tiny satellite actually was constructed from about \$250 worth of parts. Kirkhart recently offered an update on \$50SAT, which measures just 5 × 5 × 7.5 cm and weighs 210 grams.

"The good news is [that] it is still operating. The bad news is the power situation has been degrading, with an apparent step change on or near May 12, 2015, followed by another on June 23, 2015," he said.

Kirkhart, who lives in Michigan, said his last full telemetry capture was on May 27, and the last time he heard \$50SAT was on June 6. "I continued to attempt to listen for it for another week or so, and heard nothing," he said. \$50SAT transmissions repeat about every 75 seconds, starting with an FM slow Morse code call sign beacon, data at 60 WPM Morse, and FSK RTTY data and digital data telemetry.

Since then, Kirkhart has been monitoring the satellite via the [WebSDR](#) site of Anton Janovsky, ZR6AIC, as \$50SAT makes daytime passes over South Africa — which happens in the early morning hours in Michigan.



Continued on Page 9

FCC Proposes Fining Georgia Ham \$1000 for Failing to Identify

American Radio Relay League

The FCC has proposed fining a Georgia ham \$1000 for alleged failure to properly identify. David J. Tolassi W4BHV, had been warned last August about not following the Commission's Part 97 ID rules. The FCC said his "deliberate disregard" of that warning warranted the proposed penalty.

"Mr Tolassi...has a history of failing to comply with the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service," the FCC said in a [Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture](#), released on July 22. As the NAL recounted, agents from the FCC's Atlanta Office used direction-finding techniques to locate the source of a signal on 14.313 MHz to Tolassi's residence in Ringold, Georgia.

"The agents monitored and recorded transmissions during which Mr Tolassi failed to transmit his assigned call sign," the FCC said. "The agents interviewed Mr Tolassi later that evening, and, while he admitted operating that evening, he denied making the unidentified transmissions."

Nonetheless, the FCC determined that Tolassi "apparently repeatedly violated Section 97.119(a)" of the rules. The Commission pointed that it could have assessed a forfeiture of \$16,000 a day for a continuing violation, but it settled on a \$1000 fine.

Tolassi is no stranger to the FCC Enforcement Bureau. In 2005, the Commission warned Tolassi, then WA1BHV and living in Vermont, that he was risking a substantial fine if he continued to violate the conditions of his 2004 license renewal. After a series of "enforcement issues" relating to the operation of KB1EVE, his call sign at the time, the FCC renewed Tolassi's General class ticket on the condition that he refrain from 20 meter voice operation for 3 years. The FCC had referred Tolassi's renewal application to the Enforcement Bureau for review the previous year, after then-FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth alleged that Tolassi had engaged in inappropriate on-the-air behavior.

Tolassi has 30 days to pay or seek a reduction or cancellation of the fine.



FCC Shows No Mercy, Sustains \$22,000 Fine for Egregious On-Air Behavior by Michigan Licensee

American Radio Relay League

The FCC has dropped the other shoe — hard — in the case of Michael Guernsey KZ8O (ex-ND8V), of Parchment, Michigan, imposing the full \$22,000 fine it had proposed in 2014 for causing intentional interference with other Amateur Radio communications and for failing to identify. In a [Forfeiture Order](#) issued on July 22, 2015 — exactly 1 year from its [Notice of Apparent Liability](#) proposing the hefty fine — the FCC cited Guernsey's "long history of causing interference to other Amateur Radio operators" and noted that he "has been warned repeatedly in writing." Guernsey's interactions with the FCC Enforcement Bureau date back well over a decade, and, at one point agreed to have his license suspended for 9 months.

"Despite repeated warnings from the [Enforcement] Bureau regarding his on-air behavior, Mr Guernsey's violations included the deliberate playing of music on top of the transmissions of other amateur operators in order to obstruct their ability to communicate on the frequency," the FCC recounted in the July 22 [Forfeiture Order](#). "Mr Guernsey further used various animal noises to prevent the communications of other stations with whom he had a longstanding and well-documented dispute."

The FCC said the egregiousness of Guernsey's "repeated willful acts of malicious interference" warranted the assessment of the full \$22,000 forfeiture it had proposed a year earlier. "Nothing in the record in this case, including Mr Guernsey's financial condition, warrants any leniency or mitigation of that amount," the FCC added.

In responding to the 2014 NAL, Guernsey denied responsibility for the interference, in part noting that FCC agents had not inspected his station and may have heard the signal of a nearby radio amateur. He also sought a cancellation or reduction of the fine based on inability to pay. The FCC was having none of it. The Commission said its agents "positively confirmed the source" of the interfering transmissions as Guernsey's residence and monitored them for 40 minutes. Further, the FCC said that inability to pay a fine was but one criterion it uses in determining an appropriate financial penalty.

"Considering the entire record, we find no reason to cancel, withdraw, or reduce the proposed penalty," the FCC said in the [Forfeiture Order](#) to Guernsey, who has 30 days to pay the fine or arrange to do so on an installment plan.

In a related enforcement case, the FCC in January affirmed an \$11,500 fine against Brian Crow K3VR, of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, for causing deliberate interference. The FCC The Enforcement Bureau had proposed fining for both Crow and Guernsey in separate, but similarly worded [Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture](#) issued a year ago. Crow did not respond to the 2014 NAL.

In both instances, the FCC said, it responded in March 2014 to "several complaints of intentional interference" on 14.313 MHz, and Commission agents used radio direction-finding techniques to pin down the transmission sources.



"On The Cheap" Satellite

continued from Page 8

"This is tough, as I am not a morning person," Kirkhart said. "During these passes, where it has already spent a significant amount of time in sunlight, the battery voltage is below 3400 mV."

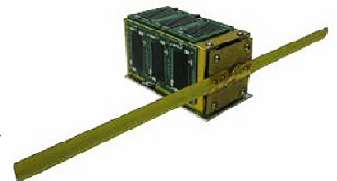
Kirkhart said that while it's possible that the battery has suffered some loss of charge capacity, it's merely a storage vessel for the solar power system, and he has pondered whether the real problem could be a degradation in solar power generation.

Kirkhart said he noticed in May that current solar power readings were typically less than 10 mA, "much lower than it should be." He said current flowing in the solar power system and the battery voltage are both "significantly lower this year than during the same period last year." He speculated that while loss of battery capacity is likely, "it appears the low battery voltage is due to low solar power output."

He said this could be a result of solar cell damage; since there was no protective covering on the solar cells, the impact of high-energy particles could have damaged the solar cells, resulting in a drop in output. He also said the solar cells could have been damaged through thermal cycling, as the satellite passes in and out of periods of dark and light. A short circuit is another possibility, but, Kirkhart said that, because of the limited amount of telemetry gathered, "it may not be possible to determine the exact cause."

He said that if the solar output continues to drop, the battery voltage may never get above the 3300 mV threshold needed to enable the transmitter, "at which point we will lose the ability to monitor its status."

"Even if this does happen," Kirkhart continued, "we never really thought it would last this long. We would have been happy if it just worked, and really happy if it lasted a month or two."



— courtesy of AMSAT News Service and the American Radio Relay League

July 16th VE Team Results

The latest WASH VE Team examination was held on July 16th, 2015, in the Community Room at the WPXI studios, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, off of I-279.

Three candidates sat for examinations, and two of them departed with a CSCE showing that they had passed their Technician class examinations:

- ♦ KC3FHT Christopher M. Grimsley of Frostburg, MD
- ♦ KC3FIH Bruce R. Lawrence, Jr. of Callery, PA

Congratulations to both of them!

Our thanks as always to the VE's who gave up their time to help administer the examinations:

- ♦ Frank Bobro N3FB
- ♦ Rich Danko N3SBF
- ♦ Ron Notarius W3WN

Our next ARRL VEC Exam will be on October 15th, again at the WPXI studios.

Our 2016 ARRL VEC schedule has not been set yet, although our next planned VE exam session will most likely be at [WASHFEST 2016](#)

— 73, Ron Notarius W3WN
WASH VE Team Liason



ARRL Files Complaints With the FCC Over RF-Ballast Lighting Devices

ARRL

Newington, CT, July 17th, 2015 — The ARRL has filed a formal [complaint](#) with the FCC, alleging that The Home Depot home improvement chain has been illegally marketing certain RF-ballast lighting devices in violation of FCC Part 18 rules. Accompanying the League's July 14 letter to FCC Enforcement Bureau Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Bruce Jacobs and Office of Engineering and Technology Laboratory Division Chief Rashmi Doshi was a 20-page [report](#) prepared by the ARRL Laboratory's Mike Gruber W1MG. His report outlines four instances in which ARRL investigated The Home Depot's marketing and sale to consumers of non-consumer-rated RF lighting devices.

In three cases, Home Depot sold non-consumer devices having far greater emission limits and intended for commercial use to consumers who specifically voiced an intention to use the devices in residential settings. Although notices accompanying the store's display and with devices purchased indicated that they were for commercial use, the information did not specify that the devices could not be used in for residential purposes. In the case of products that did include such a notice, the information was not visible without opening the packaging.

"Clearly Home Depot's marketing and sale of non-consumer ballasts is not adequate to ensure compliance with FCC Part 18 requirements," Gruber's report concluded. The ARRL asked the FCC to "investigate and commence and enforcement proceeding" regarding The Home Depot's retail marketing and sale of RF lighting devices in the US.

In its letter, the League noted that it has received numerous complaints from the Amateur Radio community of "significant noise" in the bands between 1.8 and 30 MHz from so-called "grow light" ballasts and other RF lighting devices regulated under FCC Part 18 rules. Gruber said emissions from grow light ballasts were measured in the ARRL Lab to be way above both non-consumer and consumer Part 18 emissions limits.

Although otherwise legal non-consumer rated ballasts — the subject of ARRL's complaint — are not nearly as problematic as grow lights, they can still cause interference beyond what would normally be expected or easily addressed in a residential environment. The devices at issue in the League's complaint are only legal in commercial and industrial environments, and should not be used for residential purposes due to the higher Part 18 emission limits permitted for industrial and commercial devices.

According to the League, its investigations in several states revealed an alarming number of instances of retail sale of electronic lighting ballasts, in which non-consumer-rated ballasts were mixed in with consumer ballasts and other consumer products. "In most of the stores surveyed, unsuspecting consumers have no way of knowing the significance of consumer vs. non-consumer ballasts," the League said. "In some cases, 'commercial' grade ballasts, with their associated non-consumer emission limits, appeared to be a heavier duty or superior product. The display signage typically used implies, therefore, that commercial ballasts are also a product upgrade for home use." The ARRL said that store display signage typically did not mention or adequately address applicable FCC Part 18 requirements, as they pertain to interference in a residential environment.

The League said consumers in three of the four instances it investigated made actual purchases of RF lighting devices at The Home Depot retail outlets and "specifically asked about residential deployment of non-consumer RF lighting ballasts." The ARRL said it's apparent that The Home Depot — and, by inference, other similar retail stores — is "actively and knowingly engaged" in selling commercial RF lighting products to customers for use in residential environments.

"If this activity is left unchecked the Commission will continue to note a deterioration in ambient noise levels and preclusive interfering signals for both AM broadcasters and Amateur Radio licensees in the entirety of the high-frequency bands," the League's complaint said.

The ARRL asked the Commission to "take appropriate action" with respect to The Home Depot and other retail outlets marketing such RF lighting devices "without delay."

A copy of the letter was sent to The Home Depot's Atlanta, Georgia, Store Support Center.

Newington, CT, July 28th, 2015 — The ARRL has filed three more complaints with the FCC, urging its Enforcement Bureau to investigate and initiate enforcement proceedings to halt the marketing and retail sale of certain RF lighting devices typically known as "grow light" ballasts, which, it said, violate FCC Part 18 rules.

The largely identical complaints zeroed in on three specific products: The Galaxy Legacy Selective Wattage Ballast, the Quantum Horticulture HPS/MH-600W RF Lighting Ballast, and the Lumatek "Dial-a-Watt Air-Cooled" 1000 W Ballast.

The League had [complained](#) to the FCC in March 2014 about another Lumatek product, and noted that "apparently nothing has been done

Continued on
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Amateur Radio Ops "Seen" at the 2015 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

Photos courtesy of & © 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



UK Government Holds Up Export of Early Amateur Radio-Related TV Archive

American Radio Relay League

Newington, Ct., July 6th — Most encyclopedias say that the first transatlantic television transmissions took place via the *Telstar I* satellite in 1962, but TV images actually crossed the Atlantic in the late 1920s via an Amateur Radio transmitter, according to historical accounts. An archive of documents and other material related to that event from television pioneer John Logie Baird and his colleague Benjamin Clapp, [G]2KZ, is at risk of being exported, and the government doesn't want to see it leave Britain. Clapp's 2 kW transmitter was used to send the crude images to a receiving station near New York City, and the archive includes some of his Amateur Radio logbooks as well as a hand telegraph key. UK Culture Minister John Vaizey has declined to issue an export license in an effort to prevent the historic archive from leaving the UK.

According to a [UK government statement](#), Baird, a Scottish engineer, and Clapp first transmitted the television images over telephone lines from Baird's laboratory in London to Clapp's house in Surrey. From there, Clapp's transmitter was used to send the images across the Atlantic, where Clapp was among those on hand in Hartsdale, NY to receive them.

"Man's vision had spanned the ocean; transatlantic television was a demonstrated reality, and one more great dream of science was on the way to realization," said a February 9, 1928, account in the *New York Times* that cited an Associated Press reporter who witnessed the accomplishment. The *Times* article listed the operator of the "vision sound" receiving station as R.M. Hart, 2CVJ. The *Times* put Baird's feat on a par with Marconi's legendary transatlantic reception of the Morse code letter "s" many years earlier.

The archive, valued at more than \$50,000, consists of Clapp's radio logbooks for the US receiving station as well as for his own [G]2KZ amateur station, plus "related paper ephemera" and a so-called "Phonovision" disc that contains an early video recording, made in the fall of 1927, depicting images of Baird's ventriloquism dummy, "Stookie Bill." The Phonovision disc is believed to be the oldest surviving video recording. Baird had demonstrated his electro-mechanical television system to members of the Royal Institution a year earlier.

Vaizey based his decision to bar the possible export of the items on a recommendation by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA), administered by Arts Council England. "The Columbia disc and the notes connected with this world first of a transatlantic video recording represents British ingenuity and invention at the highest level," said RCEWA Member Christopher Rowell. "The notes contain the first ever use of the acronym 'TV' for television. The excitement of the achievement rests in these objects, which we hope will remain in this country as a permanent testament to Logie Baird and his team. Their departure abroad would also be a serious loss to scholarship."

The UK government is hoping that a buyer in the UK will match the \$50,000 asking price, so the archive may remain in the country.

DX News Briefs



AD8J, will be QRV as **AD8J/HR9** from Roatan Island (NA-057) 13—18 August. Operation will be holiday style, mostly CW and mostly between 1900z and 0400z. Bands will be 40-10 meters, including the WARC bands. QSL via LoTW or direct with SASE — OPDX

The Intrepid DX Group reports that all of their equipment for **VP8SGI** (South Georgia AN-007) & **VP8STI** (South Sandwich AN-009) has been shipped to New Zealand. The container will be loaded aboard the RV Braveheart and will meet them in the Falkland Islands in January. They are requesting donations to cover their considerable expenses. More information can be found at <http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8/> — N6PSE

There have been many allegations made about Monk Apollo and his ability to operate from **Mt. Athos** as **SV2ASP**. A lengthy response to these allegations, in Greek (you will need to use Google translate) can be found at <http://agioritikesmimnes.blogspot.gr/2015/07/6829.html>. He explains the history of how he came to be licensed, and why recent attempts to activate Mt. Athos are causing issues with future operations. — DX World

9X0AA is currently QRV on CW for an unknown period of time. QSL via LA9IAA — 9X0AA, DX World, OPDX

LU9EFO will be QRV as **HC2/LU9EFO** from Guayaquil & **HC8/LU9EFO** from the Galapagos Islands 3—24 August, on HF, SSB. QSL via F4BHW

YJ8RN will be QRV 4—14 August from Loh Island OC-110, as time permits. He suggests checking 14190 kHz @ 0600 Z — YJ8RN

A group of JA amateurs will be QRV from Tinian Island OC-086 as **NH0J** 8—13 August. QRV on CW, SSB & RTTY, 80 – 6, with ClugLog uploads. QSL via JJ2VLY — JJ2VLY, OPDX, DX World

YJ0NH will be QRV 3—7 September, 80 – 6, CW & SSB. QSL via JA0JHQ — JA0JHQ

LA7GIA will be QRV as **D67GIA** 14—23 September, 40 - 10, CW RTTY & SSB. QSL via LA7GIA — LA7GIA

A group of 8 amateurs will be QRV as **D4D** from Boa Vista Island AF-086 17—24 October, 80 – 6, SSB CW & RTTY. QSL via EB7DX — EB7DX

VK9WA will be QRV 14—23 November from Middle Island in the Willis Islets (OC-007) with an 8 man team. More info at <http://vk9wa.com/> QSL via N7SMI — VK9WA, DX World

ARRL Complaints to FCC Continued from Page 10

to date" in that case. The ARRL asserted that the three devices that are the subjects of its most recent complaints generate "blatantly excessive conducted emissions." Further, the League alleged, the devices are being marketed and sold illegally — in both instances in violation of FCC Part 18 rules. Supporting all three complaints were detailed reports from the ARRL Laboratory that quantify the League's emission level concerns.

"The level of conducted emissions from [these devices] is so high that, as a practical matter, one RF ballast operated in a residential environment would create preclusive interference to Amateur radio HF communications throughout entire neighborhoods," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote in each complaint. The devices exceeded conducted emission limits under all test conditions, "sometimes by extreme margins, throughout most of the HF range," Imlay said in his letters.

Samples of each RF lighting device cited were purchased by ARRL through retail outlets. All are manufactured overseas and imported into the US.

In a similar vein as its [recent complaint](#) about marketing of certain RF lighting devices by The Home Depot, the ARRL pointed out that there were no FCC labels on two of the devices mentioned nor any FCC compliance information "anywhere in the documentation, or in or on the box, or on the device itself," in violation of FCC Part 18 rules.

The League asked the FCC to require removal of all such illegal "grow light" devices from retail sale and marketing and the recall of those devices already sold or available for retail sale, and it said the device importers should be subject to a forfeiture proceeding.

The complaints were addressed to FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Bruce Jacobs and Laboratory Division Chief Rashmi Doshi.

QSL Routes

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3C1EA via EA4CJA -- DF6EX | P40HQ via P43JB -- P43JB |
| 4O3A via VE3EXY -- VE3EXY | PJ4V via M0URX -- M0URX |
| 4O9Ø via VE3EXY -- VE3EXY | PWØFEB via PS7AB -- PS7AB |
| 5E2E via EB7DX -- KB8NW | R1CC via DJ1ND -- KB8NW |
| 5H3DX via EA7FTR -- NK8O | RDØB/p via RZ9DX -- UAØBA |
| 5Q2M via OZ1PIF -- KB8NW | S5ØHQ via S54G -- S54G |
| 5V7DX via EA5GL -- EA5GL | T4ØHQ via OH2TA -- T4ØHQ |
| 5V7V via EA5GL -- EA5GL | TC3HQ via TA3X -- TC3HQ |
| 9XØAA via LA9IAA -- LA9IAA | TMØHQ via F5CWU -- F5CWU |
| E51DWC via OK1DWC -- OK1DWC | TX5P via F6BFH -- JA1HG |
| HB9HQ via HB9JOE -- HB9HQ | YUB5O/3 via R5QA -- KB8NW |
| HR9/AD8J via AD8J -- AD8J | V55HQ via DL9NDS -- V55HQ |
| HT7C via T14SU -- HT7C | VP2ETE via W3HKN -- W2IRT |
| J79JA via JN1THL -- JA1HGY | YF1AR/Ø via N2OO -- N2OO |
| KG4YL via K9DIG -- LU2DKN | XU7AEX via F6CTW -- F6CTW |
| OS22F via ON4RSX -- KB8NW | ZWØHQ via PY2AA -- PY2AA |

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.



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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

The Cingolani Building

300 North McKean Street, Butler PA 16001

Phone: 724-283-0653

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

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Acting with near lightning speed, the FCC has [dismissed](#) two petitions for rule making calling for separate amendments to the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. Willison H. Gormly, WD0BCS, of Des Moines, New Mexico, filed both petitions on June 16, and the FCC turned them away on July 1. Gormly had requested that the FCC amend §97.301(e) of the rules by dividing it into separate sub-paragraphs for technician and Novice class privileges. He had also asked the FCC to amend §97.305(c) to authorize spread spectrum emissions in the 2 meter band.

"The rule changes you propose were previously rejected by the Commission," Scot Stone, deputy chief of the Mobility Division in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, told Gormly in the FCC's dismissal letter. "Your petitions do not demonstrate or even suggest that any relevant circumstances have changed such as to merit reconsideration of these decisions."

The FCC noted that while §97.301(e) had been divided into two paragraphs in the past, these were consolidated when the Commission streamlined the rules in 1999. Gormly argued that the present configuration was confusing, but the FCC pointed out that §97.301 "has been in this arrangement for a number of years without any reported difficulty."

Regarding Gormly's second petition, the Commission noted that it had sought comment in 2004 as to whether it should expand the bands authorized for spread spectrum to permit such emissions on the 50 MHz, 144 MHz, and 222 MHz bands. Agreeing with the majority of comments, the FCC subsequently determined that authorizing spread spectrum was not warranted on 6 meters and 2 meters, "because of concerns over the compatibility of spread spectrum emission types and other Amateur radio operations in those bands," the FCC explained in its denial letter.

The FCC had said it was concerned about raising the noise floor on the band, with potential adverse effects on so-called "weak signal" communications or "otherwise affecting experimentation." The Commission also had noted that both bands are heavily used for other types of communication.

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, July 2nd, 2015 — The FCC is inviting comments on its recent proposals to authorize Amateur Radio operation on two new bands -- an LF allocation at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz (2200 meters), and an MF allocation at 472-479 kHz (630 meters). Amateur Radio would be secondary on both bands. Comments are due August 31. Reply comments -- ie, comments on comments filed -- are due by September 30. The FCC allocated 135.7 to 137.8 kHz to the Amateur Service in accordance with the *Final Acts* of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07). The proposed new allocation at 472 to 479 kHz would implement decisions made at WRC-12.

"The Commission is proposing service rules for the Amateur Service in the 135.7-137.8 kHz and 472-479 kHz bands with the principal goal of enabling sharing of this spectrum among licensed amateur stations and unlicensed PLC systems," the FCC said on April 27 in a 257-page [Report and Order, Order, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#). The combined proceeding addresses three dockets -- ET-12-338, ET-15-99, and IB-06-123 -- affecting various radio services in addition to the Amateur Service. The [detailed proposals](#) appeared in *The Federal Register* on July 2.

Amateur Radio stations are not permitted in either band until the FCC adopts, on the basis of comments, specific technical and operational Part 97 rules. Power line carrier (PLC) systems operated by utilities to control the power grid already operate under Part 15 of the FCC rules in both frequency ranges, particularly the lower of the two.

With respect to the new 630 meter band, the FCC has concluded that Amateur Radio and PLC systems "can successfully coexist in the band," and noted that there has been no reported interference to PLC operation resulting from experimental operations there. The FCC said PLC systems and anticipated Amateur Radio use of both 630 meters and 2200 meters "have characteristics that make coexistence possible." In general, the FCC wants to hear from the public regarding power limits, antenna placement and height, and geographical limitations for operation in the proposed LF and MF allocations. The FCC has said that the "cornerstone" of the technical rules it's proposing for both bands is "physical separation between amateur stations and the transmission lines" carrying PLC signals.

The FCC has said that if it concludes, after considering the record, that Amateur Radio and PLC systems cannot coexist on 135.7-137.8 kHz, it would "defer the adoption of service rules, and amateur users will have to continue to use the experimental licensing process to operate in the band."

In 2012, the ARRL submitted a *Petition for Rule Making* asking the FCC to allocate 472-479 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and to amend the Part 97 rules to provide for its use. Several countries, including Canada, already have access to the band.

The FCC said the addition of the new LF and MF allocations "would provide new opportunities for amateur operators to experiment with equipment, techniques, antennas, and propagation phenomena but with signals having larger bandwidth and higher power."

In addition, the FCC has raised the secondary Amateur Service allocation at 1900 to 2000 kHz to primary, while providing for continued use by currently unlicensed commercial fishing vessels of radio buoys on the "open sea." The Commission is seeking comment on technical requirements to govern operation of the Part 80 radio buoys.

Interested parties may submit comments, identified by ET Docket No 15-99, via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)). The ARRL will file comments in this proceeding.

The FCC regulatory fee for processing Vanity Call applications and renewals should be discontinued as of Thursday, September 3rd. The FCC decided, in a [Report & Order](#) which appeared in *The Federal Register* on July 21st, the costs to process the regulatory fees and refunds exceeded the fees received, and that it would be more cost effective to simply drop the fees altogether.

"Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category," the FCC said "Once [it's] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments."

The FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term in 2014. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



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

Sunday, August 30th, 2015, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse

2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA

Talk-in on 146.640 PL 131.8

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.skyviewradio.net>



Uniontown ARC GabFest 66th Annual Hamfest

Saturday, September 5th, 2015, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Setup Time at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

W3PIE Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road just off Route 51
& US 119, Uniontown

Talk-in on 147.045 PL 131.8

Free Admission — Free Parking — Free Swap-N-Shop Setup With Registration

More Information at www.w3pie.org/gabfest.htm



Butler County ARA Swapfest 2015

Sunday, September 13th, 2015, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Unionville Volunteer Fire Department

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

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.w3udx.org>



WACOM Hamfest 2015

Sunday, November 1st, 2015, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Vendors Setup starting at 6 AM

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington, PA 15301

Talk-in on 146.790 PL 131.8

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.wacomarc.org>



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) ↓

| <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 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



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: _____



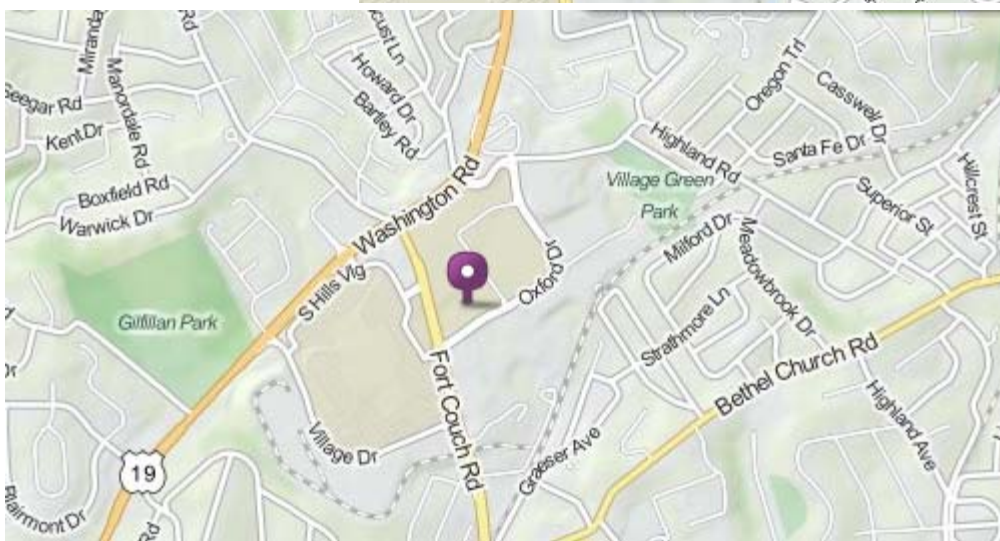
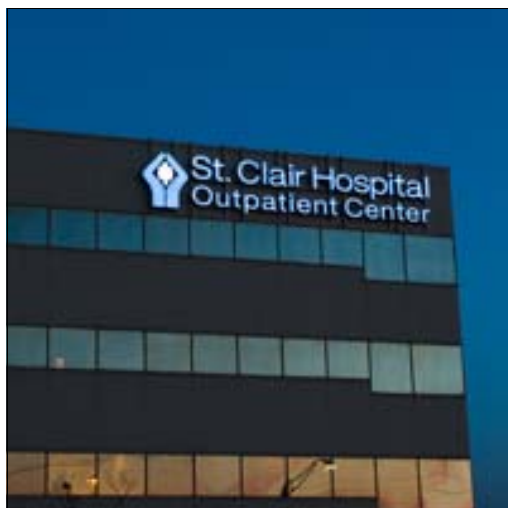
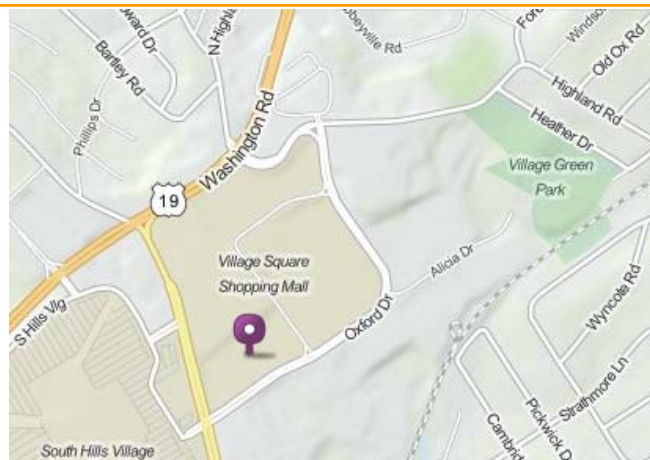
2015 WASH Meeting

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



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org

