



WASHRAGTM



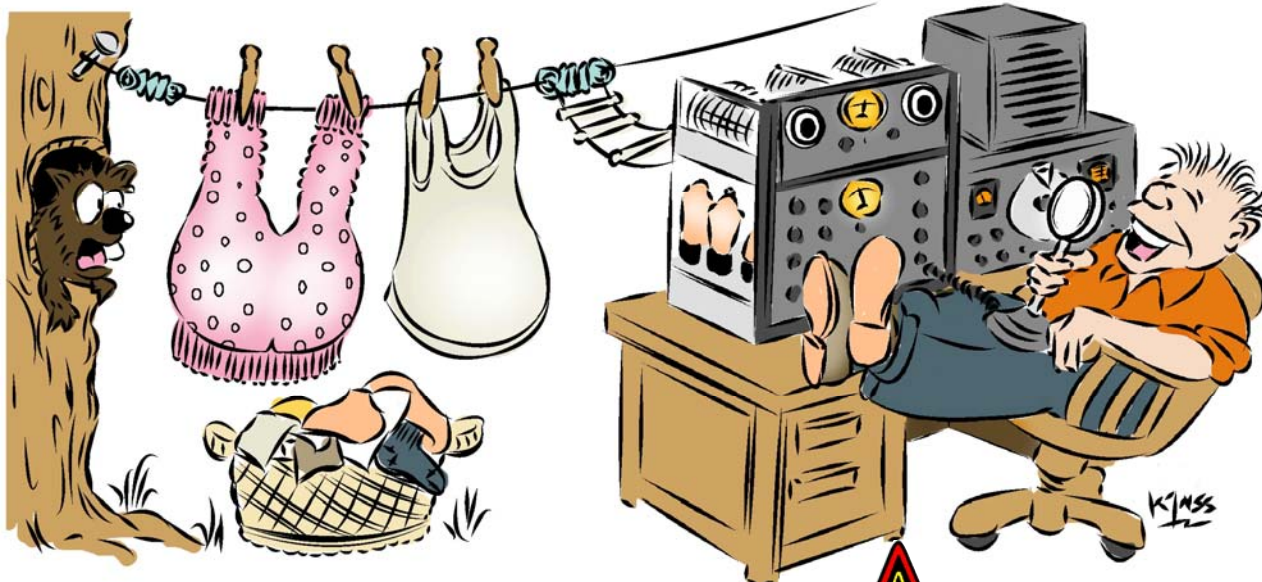
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 09
SEPTEMBER 2015

Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org





WASHRAG™



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 08

AUGUST 2015

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, September 3rd, 2015

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, September 3rd, 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 Photo: K3VX, W3WN & KB3IAC raising & guying the 20 meter hamstick dipole for W3N, the WASH effort in the 2015 US Islands operating event on August 29th, at the RMU athletic complex on Neville Island.

More pictures on Pages 7 & 8, and a write-up on the results should be available next month.

Photo 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 2016 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 WASHRag", **"The Mariner"**, **SHARCfest**, **South Hills Hamfest**, **WASHfest**, **WASHfest 2015**, **N3SH Net**, **WA3SH Net** and **WASHNet** are **™** trademarks of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test 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.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: Sunday, February 28th, 2016

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

Carol's Comments

Fall is just around the corner, even though we are having this warm weather. We have several items coming up such as our annual picnic on September 13th.

It will take place at the Woodland Grove in South Park. Hope to see everyone there. I would like an email sent to me so we know how many will attend.

Then on October 3rd there will be an emergency drill affiliated with St. Claire Hospital. If you can help with this drill please let Rick Bell know.

Last but not least is PA. QSO Party, October 10th & 11th to be exact. This is a really fun event which I plan to enjoy.

See you at the meeting on Thursday — Lots to discuss!

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

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



Whither the
Breezeshooter's
Hamfest?

Unconfirmed
reports state
that following a
warning letter
sent to them
last year, the
Breezeshooters
have been
informed that
they will not be
welcome back
to the Butler
Farm Show
Grounds for
2016.

The
Breezeshooters
have been there
since White
Swan Park was
bought by
PennDOT and
torn down for
the Airport
Parkway.

A bright, cool August morning with hints of the heat to come later was the start for 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 brought forth N3DFK, K3HCR, N3FFB, KB3GMU, N3IDH, KB3IAC, K3HCR & Barb, W3WH and W3WN. Morning conversations covered adapting a case for a Raspberry Pi, military deployments, military medicine, electrical quotes, schedules starting at 5 AM, empty nest syndrome, SET planning, the W3N US Islands expedition, getting fingerprinted, taking the train back & forth, working at "Dippin Dots", the Steelers and the Michael Vick fallout (on National Dog Day yet), sports at High School, competition with kids, using the MFJ antenna analyzer, satellite TV & Radio reception, finding "Mountaineer Ice Cream & Guns", playing Grandpa, shingles to the face, Echolink to the repeaters... and a whole lot more.

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, September 27th, 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?

First and foremost, please don't forget that the **annual end-of-summer WASH Club Picnic** will be at Woodland Grove (FD 2015 site) in South Park on September 13th. We really hope to see everyone who can make it there! As usual, there will be a pot-luck element to the event, and more is planned as well. Please email Carol as soon as possible and let you know if you can attend, how many from the family are coming, and what you can bring. Also keep an eye on your email, Carol will be sending out some reminders very soon.

Hope you enjoy the pictures of the **W3N US Islands Expedition**. Bill W3WH will be getting us a full write-up for next month's newsletter.

There's been some confusion about the **August WASHNet schedule**. Because the number of participants has been very low this summer, and net manager Glen KE7FD has been spending some time in Oklahoma this summer, the decision was made at the August meeting to suspend the net until after Labor Day. Unfortunately... no one put the word out. A classic case of "I thought YOU were going to handle that!" Our apologies for the miscommunication; we'll try to do better in the future.

WASHNet will resume on September 13th, the Sunday after Labor Day.

Is Sunday evening the best time to hold the net? Just because we've done so for many years doesn't mean that it's still the best time going forward. Carol KB3GMN brought up moving the net to Monday evenings, 8 PM, for a variety of reasons. What do you think?

The **2016 Pennsylvania QSO Party** is just around the corner. Carol KB3GMN & Rich N3SBFW will be returning to Clarion County; Bill W3WH & Larry K3VX, Harold K3HCR and Rick KB3IAC are in the process of organizing a return to the Heritage Reservation, the BSA facility in Farmington PA in Fayette County. Operation will be from the Keystone Lodge (a Ryan home), with full facilities! We have access to the facility starting the Friday before the contest.

Rick is looking for club members to help set up and operate, even if they can't stay for the entire weekend. Pa QSO is a fun event for everyone, and it's one of the few times when Pennsylvania (especially rare/semi-rare counties like Clarion and Fayette) is sought after! If you are at all interested, please contact Rick and see what you can do to help! You can contact him at kb3iac@arrl.net

If you haven't already **seen the Spotlight photo** on Page 4... credit Mrs. W3WN for finding that photo on Facebook! (Credit where credit is due, but blame Ye Editor for publishing it!)

WASHNet 2015 NCS Schedule

09/06/2015	Summer Hiatus	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
09/27/2015	Carol KB3GMN	11/22/2015	Bill W3WH
10/04/2015	Dave N3DFK	11/29/2015	Rick KB3IAC
10/11/2015	Fred KB3DCO	12/06/2015	Bob AB3ED
10/18/2015	Digital Night	12/13/2015	Carol KB3GMN
10/25/2015	Glen KE7FD	12/20/2015	Digital Night

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 17

Minutes, August 6th Meeting

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

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:05 hours. 11 members and guests were in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed for recent silent keys & others deserving.

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Larry K3VX, second by Rich N3SBF, 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 October 13th. Thanks to N3FB for making the arrangements. VE's needed for the next session. N

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeating

WASHNet (KE7FD): Following a brief discussion, motion by Rich N3SBF, second by Ron W3WN to postpone the net until the Sunday after Labor Day due to low summer attendance. Passed unanimously. Carol KB3GMN asked if we should move the net to another evening in order to improve attendance; Monday at 8 PM was mentioned. Discussion. No vote taken, but most appeared in favor of the change,

Contests (K3VX): Pa QSO is the next big event for **WASH**. Rich N3SBF, Larry K3VX and Bill W3WH plan operating, at the very least. Rick KB3IAC discussed what we did the last time the club operated from the Scout Camp in Fayette. W3WH suggested we obtain permission to use the Pittsburgh Council's club call.

W3WH & K3VX announced they will be operating as W3N from Neville Island during the US Islands contest, Noon until whenever, from the RMU facility

Public Service (N3IDH): Discussion of operating K3SCH from St. Clair Hospital during the October ARRL Simulated Emergency Test.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): No report.

President (KB3GMN):

- The "Thank You" for Kelly Alderson ready to be delivered, a gift card to "Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza". Rick added \$50 to the club's \$50.
- Picnic at Woodlawn
- **WASHFest 2016** will be here before you know it.
- Letter from W3BC, regarding the August 22nd WPA Club President's meeting. We need a volunteer as club rep, Carol can not make it.
- Meetings are set through September 2016. We remain on the First Thursday for now, due to availability.
- Short discussion on the Memorandum of Understanding for the N3FB repeater. Bill W3WH wrote up a draft, Mike K3AIR will review and tweak, should be in place very soon.
- Short discussion on the club's address, and 501(c)(3) status. Frank N3FB mentioned that WPRC has a mail drop at a UPS Store. Motion by W3WH that we investigate obtaining 501(c)(3) status & what's involved., Second by Jan KB3IVX. Motion carried. Mark N3RDV & Rick KB3IAC will handle.

Old Business: Short discussion of upcoming repeater line programming... 24/7 or just selected times? Link will be selected times at first.

New Business:

- + Rick KB3IAC discussed his recent meeting with Venard at St. Clair Hospital (SCH). Discussion points covered an HF/VHF/UHF station at the hospital comm center, FL Digit interface, battery backup, etc. \$3500 in Venard's budget, FT-991 is the radio of choice. Three bids needed, discussion of possible sources.
- + SCH would like us to participate in their October 3rd drill, which will involve at least two facilities; one will have an "event" which will evacuate to the other. We need 7 to 8 manned portable stations with FLDigi capability. Discussion. Several questions about credentials need to be answered.
- + Discussion of SCH for Field Day 2016. Venard is flexible, but is eager for a full-blown FD op on site. Rick & Venard have pre-identified 5 possible sites at the hospital; issues including parking and access have been addressed.

Good of the Order: None

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Rich N3SBF and carried.

Meeting adjourned 20:35

WASH Spotlight: K3AIR

Congratulations

to Mr. & Mrs.

Michael

Lazaroff, married
on August 25th

(Sorry, we don't
have any other
information than
that...

Photo found on
Facebook, we
will credit the
photographer if
we ever find out
who it is)



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
AB3NM
AE3DL
K3HCR
K3LGM
K3SGT
K3VX
KB3DCO
KB3GMN
KB3GMP
KB3GMU
KB3GUZ
KB3IAC

KB3IVX
KB3JHR
KB3ORO
KB3PSB
KC3DOF
KC3ELA
KE7FD
KI5ZT
N1NCZ
N2QIV
N3DFK
N3FB

N3IDH
N3KFD
N3RDV
N3RHT
N3SBF
NU3Q
W3LE
W3RWS
W3VFA
W3WH
W3WN
WA3VSS
WB4GCS

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
W4ZE
WASH NE
N0PEU
WASH OR
N0VLR
N0WVP
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH OH
N8DPW

WASH SC
N3RNX
WASH TN
K3OL
KE3XB
N3YPB
WASH TX
K3LGM
KB3JX
Jane Wagner
WASH VI
NP2JF

Silent Keys

AB3KA
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
WA3JPP

*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

September 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 5 th	66 th Uniontown ARC Gabfest	http://www.w3pie.org
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
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		
February 28 th	WASHFest 2016	CSVFD Memorial Hall, 3600 Library Rd, Castle Shannon
March 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 7 th		

Washington Wildfires Claim Amateur Repeaters

American Radio Relay League

Two Central Washington repeaters, owned and operated by the [Lake Chelan Amateur Radio Club](#), have been destroyed by one of the wildfires raging in that state. The co-located machines, one on 2 meters and one on 6 meters, were sited on Slide Ridge near Manson, Washington, in Chelan County. On August 27th, the First Creek Fire completely leveled the building housing the repeaters. Scorched antennas and support structures are still standing but are likely beyond repair. The club's Roger Odorizzi W7CH, said the repeaters had been offline for several days.

"We knew the fire had wiped out the power going to our site, but we hoped for the best, that our mountaintop building was possibly spared," he said. "Now we have confirmation this was not the outcome." Odorizzi said the area remains closed, and the club likely will not have access to it "for a long time."

The club's Ken Rau K7YR, said the loss, in addition to the building, included the two repeaters, duplexers and antennas. The repeaters provided coverage in North Central Washington. Rau told ARRL that it's unlikely that the building housing the repeaters would be replaced. It once housed radio and TV broadcast translators, most no longer in use. Topography is also a factor. "This is a mountain site — 4900 feet above mean sea level — with power lines that were installed on a very steep slope."

Rau said a lot of fire remains in the area and predicted that access to the repeater site probably would be limited for several weeks and that the site could remain off limits until first snowfall.

The First Creek Fire covers more than 6000 acres and has been threatening hundreds of homes, destroying a dozen houses along with seven "other structures," according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

It was only 25 percent contained (as of this information)

Photo Right of the Repeater Site on August 27th, courtesy of Ken Ray K7YR and the ARRL



IARU Reiterates Commitment On Satellite Coordination w/in Band Plans

American Radio Relay League

In apparent reference to efforts by China's Amateur Satellite Group (CAMSAT) to coordinate operating frequencies for nine satellites set to launch in early September, the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) has made it clear that it will not coordinate frequencies do not conform with accepted band plans for all three IARU regions. The IARU has informed CAMSAT CEO Alan Kung, BA1DU, that it was only able to coordinate uplink and downlink frequencies for two of the nine spacecraft (CAS-3/XW-2D and E), but it has not made that letter public.

CAMSAT has said it plans to launch the nine satellites, all carrying Amateur Radio payloads, on September 7th or 8th.

"The IARU Satellite Adviser, Hans van de Groenendaal ZS6AKV, and his advisory panel are mandated to coordinate frequencies within the IARU band plans for amateur satellites," said a public statement released on August 20th by IARU Secretary Rod Stafford W6ROD. "Coordinated frequencies must comply with band plans that are common to all three IARU regions. Satellites coordinated outside these plans could cause interference to terrestrial amateur operations in other regions."

The IARU statement suggested that the popularity and high occupancy of 2 meters "led to a request by satellite builders for coordination outside the spectrum reserved for satellites in the IARU band plans (145.800-146.000 MHz), as not enough channels are available to satisfy their requirements."

The IARU said that, in theory, satellites could be programmed only to operate while orbiting above their countries of origin, but "because satellite orbits make it difficult to pinpoint operations, spillover to other regions may occur during parts of the orbit. Accordingly, IARU will not coordinate frequencies for satellites which are planned to operate outside the internationally aligned IARU band plans for amateur satellites."

The IARU statement noted that its frequency coordination service aims to "maximize spectrum utilization and avoid possible interference to other satellites and ground stations." The IARU recommended that satellite groups "work on a sharing plan or use other parts of the Amateur Service spectrum designated for satellite operation," and it suggested resurrecting 10 meters — once popular as a satellite band, but largely unused today — as one possibility for uplink channels.

"The band segment 29,300-29,510 MHz has been used for Amateur-Satellite downlinks for more than 40 years, beginning with *Australis*-OSCAR 5 in 1970 and *AMSAT*-OSCAR 6, *AMSAT*'s first communication satellite, in 1972," the IARU statement noted. Just one amateur satellite actively uses a 29 MHz downlink — *AMSAT*-OSCAR 7, launched in 1974. Conceding that 29 MHz downlink frequencies "would not be practical for today's very small satellites" due to antenna size considerations, the IARU said the band could be used for uplinks, even with small receiving antennas, because Earth stations can run sufficient transmit power to overcome the disadvantage. "The IARU Satellite Adviser and his panel believe that the 10 meter band offers a good alternative to 2 meter uplinks," the IARU said.

[AMSAT](#) President Barry Baines WD4ASW, said his organization's Advanced Satellite Communications and Exploration of New Technology ([ASCENT](#)) initiative is exploring alternatives to address the proliferation of CubeSats and the resulting pressure on 2 meters and 70 centimeters. He pointed out that the 200 kHz IARU allocation on 2 meters "is not very wide" given the number of satellites being launched, but the use of 10 meters is impractical in this era of CubeSats.

"It is incumbent upon the Amateur-Satellite community to develop new ways of 'keeping Amateur Radio in space' that take advantage of other bands and provide enhanced services through appropriate technologies, given the need to find suitable bandwidth for an increasing number of satellites," Baines told ARRL. He said using digital technology could provide multi-channel capability, and design work is already under way. Transitioning to "underutilized amateur spectrum on bands such as 5 GHz and 10 GHz is also a possibility, Baines added, although he was quick to point out that *AMSAT* does not intend to abandon use of 2 meters and 70 centimeters for its own satellite projects.

The IARU said that when a large group of satellite sharing the same band is launched, "they will soon drift apart which enhances the opportunity to share the same frequencies. For example, during the initial phase, just after launch, a time-sharing system could be used to monitor the payloads before initializing transponders and other systems."

"Currently the IARU team also coordinates frequencies for satellites built by universities and educational groups in an effort to maximize spectrum utilization and mitigate any possible interference to Amateur Radio operations," the IARU statement concluded. "The IARU is committed to work with these groups and with the ITU to find other spectrum for these satellites."



W3N 2015: WASH US Islands Expedition to Neville Island

Photos courtesy of & © 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN

W3WH, K3HCR



K3VX, W3WH



Above & Below: Assembling the 40 Meter Hamstick Dipole on Larry's Car , raising it on his trailer hitch



Below: K3VX & K3HCR assembling the 20 meter hamstick dipole support "structure" out of pre-cut PVC



W3N 2015: WASH US Islands Expedition to Neville Island

Photos courtesy of & © 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



KB3IAC, W3WH, K3HCR



Above (L & R):
Raising the 20 meter
hamstick.

Left (both):
Setting up the operating
station and making our first
"test" transmissions.

Below:
Our thanks to the RMU
Miniature Golf Course staff
for letting us operate from
their portion of the RMU
sports complex for a few
hours during the US Islands
event!



Above & Right: W3N went QRV on the
20 meter hamstick dipole. Meanwhile,
a loop antenna for 20 meters was
being assembled to see if it would be
more effective under noisy & crowded
band conditions; the KS QSO Party
was running in addition to the USI
contest.



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



Everyone enjoyed the pretzels & dips!
(Thanks again, Jan & Rick!)



A Brand-New \$15 HT? Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ



Figure 1

Yep, BRAND NEW \$15 from CHINA! Makes a Baofeng UV5R seem pricey at \$35! OH and what does the new Yaesu FT2DR cost? Don't even think about an ICOM!!!!

The radio today being reviewed is the BAOFENG BF-888S.

So what is it good for? It is a UHF only rig, good for your 450 MHZ repeaters, so if you want 2 Meter FM, you are out of luck — go out and buy a \$35 UV5R!!! Here is a picture of it (Figure 1). Comes with a drop in Charger

So What does a Ham with the ABILITY do with a \$15 HT? TAKE IT ALL APART to see whatsup!

To rip it apart: First you take out the 2 hex bolts at the bottom of the battery case. They are metric 1.5MM.

Next gently PULL Off the knobs! and remove the Rubber duck. Under those you will see some gold nuts that are removed with a pair of tweezers. Now, you can gently pry it apart and get the metal housing out of the front case. There are some little plastic pieces don't lose those!!!

Once the metal housing is pulled lose from front case, U will need to unsolder the speaker wires. Don't forget where they go!!!

Here is the front cover removed (figure 2), and your back assembly will look like this (figure 3):

If you dare to go further, you will need to solder wick out the solder on the PLUS battery pin and the SMA antenna pin. There are several small Phillips screws that can be removed.

With the board ready to be removed, make sure you don't break anything!!! Now you can pull the board off and look at what cost \$15! (Figure 4)

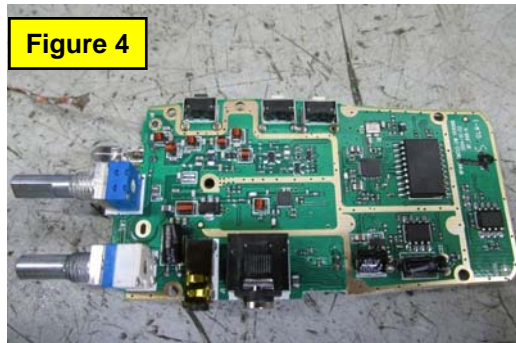


Figure 4

Here is the metal housing (Figure 5), nicely manufactured! Imagine how much this would cost STATESIDE!!!!

After your curiosity is satisfied, you can try to put it back together! If you fail, sweep up the parts and send it to me, I will reassemble it for you!

If it still works, it is time to program it.

Interestingly, the CD that Baofeng ships to you doesn't have a BF888S program on it!!!! You need THIS one from MIKLOR.com
<http://www.miklor.com/BF888/888-SW-BF888S.php>



Figure 2

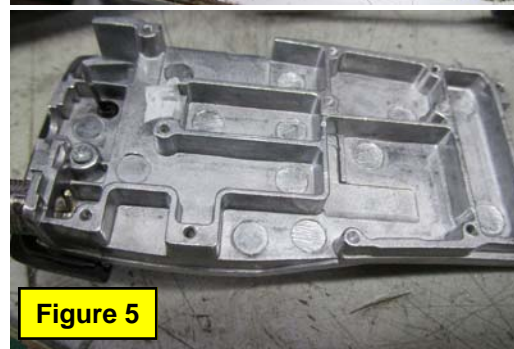


Figure 3

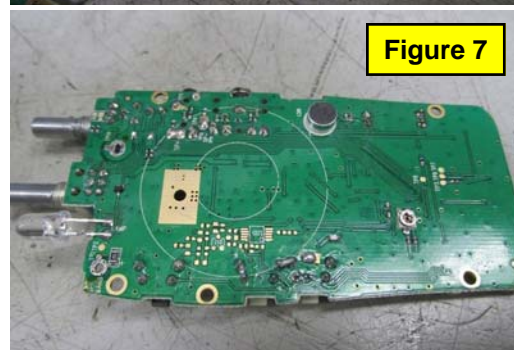


Figure 5

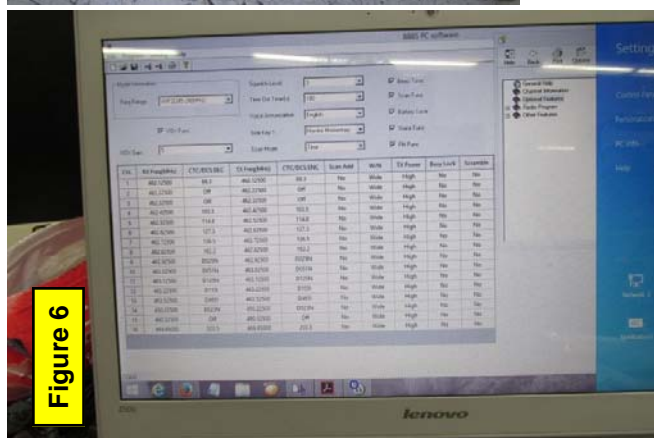


Figure 6

Another look at the back of the board (Figure 7)

Here is the programming screen (Figure 6). Note that it all comes STOCK with 462 MHZ frequencies. Reprogram those with your favorite 450 MHZ repeater frequencies.

The radio also does VOX too!

SO — that's what is inside a FIFTEEN DOLLAR HT!!!

Figure 7

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, August 31st, 2015 — The Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. (QCWA)—an international organization of amateur ("ham") radio operators—presented a 90 Year Licensed Certificate Award (Serial #1) to Charles "Charlie" Hellman W2RP. Mr. Hellman is 105 years of age and is the oldest living amateur radio operator in the United States and possibly the world. Charlie was licensed in 1925 as a 15 year-old, and joined QCWA in 1975 and is also a member of local QCWA Chapter 181 (Hudson Valley).

On hand to present the certificate, and represent QCWA President Ken Oelke VE6AFO and the membership were: Treasurer Charles Tropp N2SO, Directors Carole Perry WB2MGP and Pete Varounis NL7XM; along with QCWA Chapter 181 Secretary Mike Sturm, K2AE. Also on hand for the ceremony was Don Finkel, WA2OQM. The certificate reads: "The Quarter Century Wireless Association presents this 90th Anniversary Award to its Distinguished Member Charles "Charlie" Hellman, W2RP to commemorate Ninety Years of Service as a licensed Radio Amateur."

In addition to the certificate, Charlie was also presented with a letter from QCWA president Ken Oelke VE6AFO which reads in part, "I would also like to say how proud I am that you have kept active for these many years, and to proudly celebrate what many will not be able to achieve in their entire lifetime. Congratulations to you on 90 years as a licensed radio amateur, and may you enjoy many more in amateur radio!"

The information pertaining to Charlie was discovered when the QCWA webmaster, Bob Roske NØUF, was updating member files and discovered that Charlie was still living in New York and was certainly the oldest living member of QCWA. In recognition of his achievement the QCWA Board of Directors quickly voted to award Charlie the 90 Year certificate, a first for the organization

— courtesy of Charles Tropp N2SO & Pete Varounis NL7XM

The Realities of a North Korean Amateur Radio Activation

Story & Pictures courtesy of Paul Ewing N6PSE, from his [radio blog](#)

In late February, 2015, Polish DXer Dom Grzyb 3Z9DX announced to the world that he had obtained written permission to operate from Pyongyang, North Korea (DPRK) and would be making a return visit in December or January to operate on SSB for five days with 100 watts and a vertical antenna.

Months later, Dom is asking for donations to help fund the purchase of a radio that will have to be left behind with all other gear once his operation concludes.

As much as I hope that Dom achieves success and is able to "open the door" for further amateur radio activity from North Korea, I feel that an approved operation is unlikely.

There have been three valid operations from the DPRK over the years. By valid, this means that the ARRL DXCC desk accepted the activations as real even though no license was ever given. To my knowledge, the DPRK authorities have never provided an actual ham license or written permission for anyone to conduct amateur radio from the DPRK.

The first accepted operation was on May 14th, 1995 which was an amateur radio demonstration by OH2BC, OH2BH and OH0XX. They made 20 contacts as P5/OH2AM.

The second activation was on April 21st, 1999. Noted DXpeditioner Martti Laine OH2BH operated for a short time and made 263 contacts as P51BH.

The third and last activation was done by Ed Giordadze-4L4FN. He operated from his Apartment in the UN Compound in Pyongyang from November 2001 to November 2002. He made 16,194 contacts. In December 2002, Ed-4L4FN was confronted by the DPRK Government and ordered to shut down his activity and ship all of his equipment out of the country. There has been no other activity since 2002.

P5 is currently the most wanted DXCC entity on the various most-wanted lists.

While there have been three "valid" activations, there have been many more unsuccessful efforts.

Noted DXpeditioners Zorro JH1AJT, Jun JH4RHF, Hrane YT1AD, have all sought permission to demonstrate amateur radio. Physician-Humanitarian Dr David Borenstein KA2HTV was able to ship in some amateur gear along with a significant amount of medical equipment that he was donating to the DPRK, however his amateur radio gear was seized and he was never able to use it.

Other efforts include those by OK1DTG who at one time claimed to have verbal permission given.

Romeo 3W3RR, Oleg UB4JDM, Mike UWØMF and Toly UT3UY operated as P5RS7 in December 1992 however this operation was never accepted for DXCC. Rumors suggest the operation took place from Vladivostok.

I know of several other Russian friends who have a proven track record of activating the impossible and are working on activating the DPRK, however they do not wish to publicize their plans.

Rick K6VVA announced several years ago his CW only multiple IOTA plans in partnership with an unidentified DPRK NGO.

In 2013, Intrepid-DX Group member David-AH6HY and I made two visits to the DPRK. After visiting Pyongyang, Kaesong and Rason, we decided that Pyongyang was the most likely place for a DXpedition. While we were in Kaesong, the Kaesong Industrial Complex, a joint partnership with South Korea was closed and not in production. There had been a huge dispute between the Republic of Korea and the DPRK and all of the workers were sent home and production was suspended.

In Pyongyang, the power infrastructure is much more reliable than areas outside of the Capitol. In addition, the authorities are much more accustomed and familiar with foreign visitors. It is a much different scenario in Rason where the border authorities are very authoritarian and not welcoming to visitors. Since our 2013 visit, Dave Flack AH6HY has returned to the DPRK for several more visits. We have retained a Chinese Emissary and we have partnered with a leading Chinese DXpeditioner and his team.

It is not difficult to visit the DPRK however when amateur radio is discussed with any DPRK Government official, the conversation quickly turns very serious and is shut down very quickly and sternly. They understand what amateur radio is and they are strongly opposed to it.

The concept of what is normal or the "norm" in the DPRK is very narrow. People work; they study their little red book. They attend meetings. They listen only to government radio stations on a radio purchased from the Government, or they watch television on the government television channel with the television produced by the government and sold at the government store.

The concept of freely communicating with people outside the country is not anything close to their norm. Even Telephone and Internet networks are available only within the border of the country for the average citizen. They are not free to call, email or send mail outside of the country or receive any of the same.

When Kim Jong Un first came to power, there was a glimmer of hope that he would be a much different kind of leader than his father and grandfather. A huge basketball fan, his UN Diplomats in New York reached out to the NBA to see if any basketball stars wanted to participate in an all-expenses paid visit to the DPRK to participate in a basketball exhibition. Much to their dismay, none of the current NBA stars were eager to take them up on this offer. Retired player Dennis Rodman was the highest profile former NBA player that agreed to participate. It is believed that after several visits that relationship has now soured.

Since Kim Jong Un took power, there has been an on-going systematic purge of Government officials at various levels of the Government. Free thinking and risk taking can get them and their families executed. No one in the government is making decisions for anything outside of their very narrow norm. The consequences are too high, not just for oneself but for one's family as well. Punishment is rarely a solitary event. Entire families are executed or imprisoned for the wrong of one individual member of the family.

For any Government official of the DPRK to agree to even discuss amateur radio is very unlikely. For any Government Embassy to agree to allow an amateur operation from their embassy without the permission of the host country is extremely unlikely. Governments go to great lengths and enormous costs to maintain diplomatic relations and they are not likely to risk that for an amateur radio demonstration.

What the DPRK wants is something that it cannot easily have. The DPRK strongly wants to be respected by the world's super powers. However their many rants and threats of war are working against them.

The Chinese are currently boycotting the DPRK and they are not allowing their citizens to visit as tourists. The Russians will no longer sell oil to the DPRK because their history of repayment is very poor. The Americans will only communicate with the DPRK through third party



N6PSE & AH6HY at the Empress Hotel, site of the 1999 P51BH activation



A large Yagi on the Ministry of Information building in Pyongyang

Special Event Stations for the 2015 World Meeting of Families

Bob Josuweit WA3PZO

Pope Francis visits the United States September 22nd – 27th, and amateur radio will be part of the celebration.

Throughout the 6 day event (September 23rd 0000Z – September 28th 0000Z) 6 special event amateur radio stations will be on the air to commemorate the event. Call signs from the Washington, DC area will be **K3P** and **N4P**. From New York and New Jersey the call will be **K2P**. **W3FRC/WMF** will be on the air from southeastern Pennsylvania and **W3P** will be on the air in Philadelphia. **WM3PEN**, also of Philadelphia, will join in Thursday evening at 8 PM EST (Friday 0000 GMT). Four unique qsl cards will be available along with a certificate to mark this special and historic event. A website is being established for QSL and certificate information. Early information and links can be found on the WM3PEN QRZ.COM website.



We are privileged to be able to represent our region of the USA via Amateur Radio. Every three years there is a World Meeting of Families. This year amateur radio operators in 5 states will be on the air to commemorate the event.

As more and more communications equipment designs have adopted digital signal processing techniques, **Rockwell Collins** has announced that it will stop manufacturing its renowned mechanical filters. It did not provide a specific date.

"Over the past several years, we have seen a dramatic reduction in demand for narrowband analog filters," the company said on its website. "Due to this and other economic reasons, [Rockwell Collins] Filter Products will be discontinuing its mechanical filter products in the near future."



Rockwell Collins makes two different types of mechanical filters, many of which have found their way into Amateur Radio products and applications. In a mechanical filter, input and output transducers convert the electrical signal to and from resonant mechanical vibrations, respectively.

"For frequencies between 100 kHz and 700 kHz, we create filters made from rods resonating in a torsion mode," the company explained on its website. "For frequencies below 100 kHz, we use flexure mode bar resonators."

Collins has made mechanical filters for more than 6 decades, and their initial application was in telephone circuits. The filters gained favor for Amateur Radio use because of their excellent selectivity, especially in IF applications. It is said to take about 12 weeks to manufacture a single unit.

Art Collins WØCXX (SK), founded Collins Radio Company in 1933 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That same year Collins supplied the equipment to establish communication with the Byrd South Pole expedition. Over the years, Collins produced a line of Amateur Radio equipment, and its products remain popular among radio amateurs and collectors. Rockwell International purchased the company in 1973, and Rockwell Collins was spun off in 2001. Today, the company has focused its market on electronic communications, avionics, and in-flight entertainment systems.

— Mike Morris WA6ILQ, Rockwell Collins, courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

North Korean Amateur Radio Activation

Continued from Page 9

intermediaries and only when it's essential such as when an American visitor is imprisoned for violating anything out of the DPRK norms.

It would probably take an Ex-President and an oil tanker full of oil to get permission for an amateur radio demonstration, which is very unlikely to happen. The DPRK has many needs. There are many hungry mouths to feed however what they clearly want most is to be respected by the world's leaders.

This isn't something that Amateur Radio can provide to this complicated and needy nation.

If Dom 3Z9DX is able to get on the air from the DPRK, Wow! He would have accomplished a true miracle and accomplished something that so many leading DXpeditioners before him were unable to accomplish.

If Dom is not able to get on the air, he will be joining the long list of leading DXpeditioners who did their best and were not able to achieve what they set out to do.

So I wish Dom 3Z9DX best wishes for his effort but I will not be surprised if his gear is seized and he is sent on his way. That is their track record with so many that tried before him. Unless Kim Jong Un gets as excited about amateur radio as he has been about American basketball, any amateur radio activity is just not likely to happen.



Several large Yagis just outside of Pyongyang

"During June 2013, Manuel German, EA7AJR, and me had our first meeting with a D.P.R.K. Government official. After our meeting, we gave him a Ham Radio project for D.P.R.K.

One year later, April 2014, we had our second meeting and we gave him a new project. On April 2015, we had our third meeting and a new project was sent to Pyongyang. Just few days later after our project was received at the Ministry, the D.P.R.K. Government sent us an official invitation to visit the country looking to discuss our project details in person.

Today, August 17th, 2015, we had a meeting with high level officials from Telecom Ministry. They were very kind, receptive and cooperative. They knew everything about Ham Radio so it was really easy to talk with them about our Ham Radio operation project.

If everything goes as it is going up today, I can tell that we are very close to get permission to realize the first legal Ham Radio operation from D.P.R.K. So let's keep our fingers crossed, because we are also in front of a real and historical possibility to an opening to future Ham Radio operations from this nice country."

— Antonio González EA5RM, Pyongyang DPRK, August 17th, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Idiom Press is for sale, and we are suspending normal operations.

New orders will not be accepted. Customers with existing orders will be contacted by email.

To all our customer and friends, thank you for your business and support.

73 from Rob Locher W7GH

An HOA's Reaction to House Bill 1301

Robert Kozlarek WA2SQQ

My son, who lives in Florida, received the e-mail below from his Home Owners Association. Since some of you may belong to an HOA, and others may be thinking of retiring to a community who has one, I think this matter is a very relevant issue if you plan to take this hobby with you. I took the time to voice my concerns to this company, and I would hope many of you can do the same. I am including the three e-mail contacts to which your comments should be sent to. PLEASE share this info with your fellow hams, your local radio clubs, social media and any radio related web sites.

E-Mail Contacts: mfigueroa@sentrymgt.com miller@sentrymgt.com rspencer@sentrymgt.com
 Company Web Site: <http://www.sentrymgt.com/hoa-condo-management-kissimmee-orlando-lakeland-fl>

House Bill 1301/Senate Bill 1685 - HAM Radio Towers and Antennas

Dear Board Members:

The above mentioned bills are currently under consideration in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate. These are Federal bills that affect where HAM radio operators may erect towers and antennas. While the current version of the bill(s) may change, the current language of these bills pre-empts community association's architectural guidelines and rules related to installation of HAM radio towers and antennas. If the legislation passes (and it is moving forward in a way that is threatening), community associations would not be able to require prior approval for 70' HAM radio towers and antennas, nor would community associations have the ability to create reasonable processes and aesthetic guidelines. In other words, similar types of restriction on regulation of satellite dishes and certain types of aerial antennas by Associations could be applied to HAM radio if these bills are approved.

HAM radio enthusiasts indicate this legislation is needed so they may respond to and assist in communication during disasters. The truth is HAM radio enthusiasts who aid the public interest often do so at the site of a local disaster with portable equipment. They are not required to have permanent equipment, such as towers and antennas, at their residence in order to assist in communications during a disaster, especially when such towers and antennas may pose a health and safety risk to their neighbors during the same disasters.

The vast majority of community associations allow HAM radio operators to pursue their hobby if they follow community guidelines. This legislation, quite simply, is about taking that power to regulate their own associations away from the owners in their community and placing that power with the federal government.

This HAM Radio legislation currently has 86 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives (HR 1301). If you don't want tall towers in your community, it is recommended that you contact your members of Congress today and ask them to oppose H.R. 1301 (in the House) and S 1685 (in the Senate). Contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators today and ask them to oppose all legislation prohibiting community association review or approval of HAM radio towers and large, fixed antennas by going to: <http://www.capwiz.com/advocacycenter/issues/alert/?alertid=64272626&type=CO>.

This link is supported by Community Associations Institute (CAI) Government Affairs department. (Please hold the Ctrl* button while clicking to get to the link).

For your information.

Judith Duncan, Director of Association Development

ARRL "Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity Statement Separates Fact From Fiction"

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, August 28th, 2015 — The ARRL has taken steps to address objections and concerns recently raised by representatives of community associations about the [Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015](#) — H.R. 1301 and S. 1685. A statement released today, "[Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity](#)," makes it clear that the bill would *not* create new federal policy with respect to outdoor amateur antennas.

As it points out, the FCC already recognizes a strong federal interest in effective Amateur Radio communication from residences and has adopted a limited preemption of state and local regulation of Amateur Radio antennas. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 would extend the limited preemption to private land-use restrictions.

"Congress and the FCC already have acted to prohibit restrictions that prevent the installation of direct-to-home satellite dishes, TV antennas, and customer-end wireless broadband antennas," the statement said.

The legislation also does *not* prohibit community associations from reviewing proposed ham radio antenna installations or from having final approval; it limits restrictions to those necessary to accomplish an association's legitimate purposes — such as safety and aesthetics. The bill does *not* mandate that a particular size of antenna be permitted, as long as size and placement restrictions do not prohibit, but reasonably accommodate, Amateur Radio communication.

"Claims that the bill will do any of these things are simply wrong, and are either misunderstandings of the plain language of the bill or deliberate misrepresentations," the ARRL statement asserted.

As introduced in both the House and Senate, the bill recognizes that the federal interest in effective Amateur Radio communication remains the same, whether a residence is subject to state and local regulations, to private land use restrictions, or both.

Newington, CT, August 28th, 2015 — The FCC has told an Arizona radio amateur who was granted a vanity call sign within the 2 year waiting period on the basis of being a close relative of the previous holder that the relationship cited was not close enough. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) on August 26 [proposed](#) to modify the license of Joshua A. Babb, W3JB, of Maricopa, Arizona, to reflect his previous call sign, KD7HLX. The prior holder of W3JB, John K. Birch, had died, and the FCC canceled the license on August 17th, 2012. Barring exceptions to the 2 year waiting period, this meant the FCC would not accept applications for W3JB until August 18th, 2014. Babb applied for W3JB on June 21st, 2014, however, indicating that he was Birch's nephew, and the FCC granted the request on August 8th, 2014.

The WTB's Mobility Division became skeptical, however, since Babb had earlier filed four other vanity applications seeking various "JB" suffix 1 × 2 call signs, including W3JB. All were dismissed, either because they fell within the 2 year waiting period or the FCC had already randomly selected a competing application. Responding to the Bureau's request to document his relationship to the deceased former holder of W3JB, Babb replied that Birch was his "grandfather's mother's brother."

"Mr Babb's response to the Division's inquiry indicates that Mr Birch was his great-great uncle," the FCC said. "This does not exempt Mr Babb from the 2 year waiting period for call sign W3JB. The [exemption](#) applies only to specified close relatives. The relationship claimed by Mr Babb is too distant to qualify."

The Division concluded that granting Babb the call sign W3JB was improper and proposed that modifying Babb's license to replace W3JB with KD7HLX, his former call sign, would be appropriate. The WTB will not issue a modification order, however, until Babb has been notified of the proposed action and has had an opportunity to file a protest, which he must do in writing within 30 days.

WWV's 25 MHz Signal is Back On It's Original Antenna

American Radio Relay League

Time and frequency standard station **WWV**'s resurrected 25 MHz signal — now back on the air for more than a year after going silent in 1977 — is once again transmitting on a vertical dipole from its original antenna and location. The 25 MHz signal came back on the air on an "experimental basis" in April 2014, and it's been transmitting ever since. The WWV vertical dipole is not something you'd likely find in the average ham radio antenna farm.

"The antenna the 25 MHz [transmitter] is on right now is the original antenna it was on in 1977," Matt Deutch NØRGT, WWV's lead electrical engineer, told ARRL this week. "When the 25 [MHz transmitter] was shut down [that year], the radiating section was removed [and] tossed in the bone yard, and a new longer section put on the tower to make it a 15 MHz stand-by antenna."

Deutch said that when WWV first reintroduced the 25 MHz broadcast in 2014, it used a broadband monopole. It was later decided to use that antenna for WWV's 2.5 MHz stand-by transmitter, though. "So, we decided to rebuild the 25 MHz antenna," he recounted. "A few weeks ago the boys dug the 25 MHz radiating section out of the mud in the bone yard and rebuilt the 25 MHz antenna, so that it looks identical to what it looked like in 1977."

As Yardley Beers WØEXS (SK), described in "WWV Moves to Colorado," in the January and February 1967 issues of *QST*, "The antennas are center-fed with rigid coaxial cable and are mounted on hinged bases fastened to concrete foundations. The upper one-quarter wavelength section, supported on insulators from the lower one quarter wavelength section, constitutes the upper half of the radiating system. The sleeve consists of nine equally spaced quarter-wave-long wires connected from the center of the tower (one-quarter wavelength above ground) that slope downwards to the ground at an angle of 45 degrees. This sloping skirt, each wire appropriately insulated from ground, not only functions as the lower half of the radiating system, but also serves to guy the antenna."

Deutch said the 25 MHz WWV vertical dipole now is coupled to its own, dedicated transmitter, radiating 2.5 kW "with near zero watts reflected," he added, and modeling has showed that the dipole exhibits a lower angle of radiation than the broadband monopole did. "There is no automatic backup transmitter for 25 MHz at this time," Deutch added. The 25 MHz WWV signal had been operating at about 1 kW for the past 16 months.

Deutch has said that WWV has received reports on the 25 MHz signal from across the Atlantic. The 25 MHz transmission not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. The 25 MHz broadcast includes the same information transmitted on all other WWV frequencies and at the same level of accuracy.

Located in Fort Collins, Colorado, WWV is operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (**NIST**). WWV has [invited](#) listeners' comments and signal reports.

The Association of Amateur Radio of Kosovo has [not](#) been admitted to the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union).

In a recent poll in the IARU, the "Republic of Kosovo didn't obtain the recognition by the international union. This was confirmed by Goran Marjanovic, famous Serbian radio amateur.

According to Marjanovic, they fought a battle against a group of Radio Amateurs of several European countries that operated without permission, and created the Association of Amateur Radio of Kosovo without the right to do so.

The "Republic of Kosovo" had claimed the "Z6" prefix and then had submitted its candidacy to become a member of IARU.

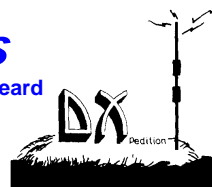
After the poll, the candidacy was rejected and the Association of Amateur Radio of Kosovo was not recognized. Marjanovic, nevertheless, believes that the game is not over yet and he expects future attempts to admit Kosovo among IARU members.

Several IARU representatives were involved in the Kosovo candidacy, such as the Region 1 former president, the Dutch Hans Blondel Timerman; a member of the executive committee, Nikola Percin from Croatia; and Martti Laine, the famous Finnish ham.

More information on Kosovo as a DXCC entity can be found at <http://www.dxcoffee.com/eng/2012/09/26/kosovo-dxcc-entity/>

— [DX Coffee](#)

DX News Briefs



In a 28 August press release, KY6R reports that the **Heard Island** team is now complete by adding three new operators for the March 2016 **VKØEK** Heard Island DXpedition. For the complete press release, see the <http://vk0ek.org/2015/08/28/the-vk0ek-team-is-now-complete> or http://www.heardisland.org/HD_pages/HD_news.html — KY6R

AG6IP has **postponed** his DXpedition to **Wake Island** as **K6W**, scheduled for September, until 2016 due to a medical issue in his family — OPDX

VE3EY will be QRV as **C6ANT** 13- 29 September, Holiday Style. QSL via VE3EY — VE3EY

5H3MB is IK2GZU, QRV from the new hospital and orphanage, 13 September - 18 October. He will be operating in his spare time. More information at <http://www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/Tanzania%202011.htm> — OPDX

JR1EFG will be QRV as **KH2/KUØQ** 24 - 28 September, 40 - 10, CW & SSB. QSL via JR1EFG — JR1EFG

LU1FM and LU9FHF will be QRV as 5JØB from San Andres NA-033 17— 27 October. They will be on 160—6 using SSB & Digital modes, including the CQ WW DX contest. More info <http://www.tarietasqsl.com/ar/5job> QSL via LU1FM — LU1FM

KK9A will once again be QRV from Aruba SA-036 as **P4ØA** 18 - 25 October. QSL via WD9DZF — KK9A

Look for **PJ6A** from Saba NA-145, 26 - 27 September during the CQWW RTTY contest. QSL via N4NX. More info at <http://www.pj6a.com> — PJ6A

The **TX3X** Chesterfield Islands DXpedition has announced that their equipment has been scheduled for delivery. They expect to set sail from New Caledonia on 16 September, land on 1 October and being setting up then. More information at <http://www.tx3x.com> — Team Chesterfield

Operators from the upcoming **3W3MD** DXpedition, 31 October—November 10 will be QRV not only from Da Nang, but from Cham Island AS-162. The main operation will have 5 stations QRV 24 hours per day, on all modes. More information available at <http://www.mdx.org/3w3md> — MIDXC

F6ICX will be QRV as **5R8IC** from Saint Marie Island AF-090, 1 November - 12 December. He will be operating Holiday Style, 40 - 10, mainly CW with other modes. QSL via F6ICX — F6ICX

DL7VOA will be QRV as **YJ4AO** from Efate Island OC-035, 27 December - 13 January, holiday style, mainly evening and night hours. More information available on his QRZ.COM page. QSL via DL7VOA — DL7VOA

The Italian DXpedition Team plans to be QRV from Los Islands AF-051 as 3XY1T sometime in February 2016. They will be QRV 160—10. More information at <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt> QSL via I2YSB — IDT

QSL Routes

3B9HC via NI5DX — JA1HGY	P4ØET via N5ET — N5ET
4K6FO via DC9RI — OPDX	R92ØRZ via RY2S — OPDX
5P1KZX via OZ1KZX — OPDX	SV5/HA3JB via HA3JB — HA3JB
8Q7DX via IK2CLB — OPDX	S79HN via JJ2VLY — JA1HGY
DQØX via DF7IS — DF7IS	SNØRX via SP8RX — SV1DPI
ED9K via EA7LS — LU2DKN	T2GC via LZ1GC — LZ1GC
EJ7NET via HB9DGV — OPDX	UG6GAW via EK7DX — N6TA
J26DX via EB7DX — EB7DX	VK9LN via NI1L — NI1L
J49TSL via SV2DGH — JA1HGY	V6M via W7GJ — W7GJ
OJØDX via DL3DXX — DL3DXX	YB1TIA via HA3JB — OPDX
P4ØER via N5ET — K5WQG	YF1AR/7 via N2OO — W3AWU

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



WASH Classifieds

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

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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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



messages. "These transmissions prevented other amateur licensees from communicating over the frequency," the **NAL** said. "During the monitoring period, the agent did not hear Mr Hicks transmit his assigned call sign. The transmissions used the call sign of another licensee." Delaney said the holder of that call sign had no idea why Hicks used it.

The FCC said it has determined that the evidence in the case was sufficient to establish that Hicks caused willful and malicious interference and failed to identify using his assigned call sign.

The Commission proposed a base forfeiture of \$7000 for causing malicious interference and \$1000 for failing to identify properly. Hicks has 30 days to pay the fine or to seek a reduction or cancellation of the proposed fine.

FCC website maintenance in early September will make the Universal Licensing System (ULS), the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCs) and other public applications unavailable for more than 5 days. The Commission said the outage will begin at 2200 UTC on Wednesday, September 2nd, and continue through the Labor Day weekend. The maintenance work should be completed by 1200 UTC on Tuesday, September 8th. During the ULS outage, it will not be possible to file any Amateur Radio applications.

"[M]ost Commission resources normally accessible through the Commission's website, including access to all electronic filing systems and electronic dockets, will be inaccessible for the same period, with the exception of the Network Outage Reporting System (NORS), the Consumer Help Center (CHC), and the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS), which will remain available," an FCC [Public Notice](#) said on August 20th. "The Commission's website will remain available, but with reduced content and limited search capabilities." According to the [Public Notice](#), the FCC will follow its normal schedule of operation during the maintenance period, but voicemail will be offline, and most Commission staffers will not have access to e-mail. Static content webpages on the fcc.gov domain, such as the FCC consumer guides, should remain available during the outage.

The FCC will extend filing deadlines for all regulatory and enforcement filings that fall during the maintenance period. Filings due on September 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 8th now will be due on Wednesday, September 9th. "Except for the due dates specified herein, we are not automatically extending the deadlines for any other comment or filing periods that will be running during this time period, but requests for extension of time will be considered consistent with the Commission's normal practice," the FCC [Public Notice](#) said. "To the extent the due dates for filings to which reply or responsive pleadings are allowed are affected by this [Public Notice](#), the due dates for reply or responsive pleadings shall be extended by the same number of days."

In a [blog](#), "Modernizing the FCC's IT," FCC CIO David Bray said that with the world and the technology we use are changing rapidly, "the information technology used by the Federal Communications Commission must change as well." Bray said the FCC has "made significant progress to upgrade and modernize our infrastructure, and we continue to work on modernizing the FCC's legacy IT systems with the resources we have available."

"We understand that this temporary downtime before and during the Labor Day Weekend may be inconvenient for some FCC stakeholders," Bray added.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 20th, 2015 — The FCC has proposed levying an \$8000 fine on a Cincinnati, Ohio, radio amateur, Daniel R. Hicks KB8UYZ, who, at one point, had volunteered to track down the interference he was causing on a number of primarily VHF repeaters. In a [Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture \(NAL\)](#) released on August 20th, the FCC Enforcement Bureau asserted that Hicks intentionally interfered with other Amateur Radio operators' communications and failed to identify properly. According to the **NAL**, an agent from the Bureau's Detroit office first responded to multiple complaints of interference on various repeaters in April 2014.

"The agent, working with a local amateur group which included Mr Hicks, was unable to locate the source of the transmission," recounted the **NAL**, signed by FCC District Director James Bridgewater. Nearly a year later, in response to continued interference complaints, an agent from the Bureau's Detroit office returned to the Cincinnati area to take another crack at finding the source of the transmissions.

"This time, the agent did not advise the local Amateur Radio group that he was in the area," the **NAL** stated. "The agent used mobile direction-finding techniques to locate the source of the transmissions to...the address of record for Mr Hicks' amateur station, KB8UYZ."

ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director Tom Delaney W8WTD, in his role as a spokesperson for the Greater Cincinnati Local Interference Committee, said at first the interference, which began in early 2014, was a nuisance, but later turned obscene and racist. He said his group was able to track the signals to a particular neighborhood, but group members were surprised to learn who was behind the interference.

"We did not know, until the FCC actually caught him, who it was," Delaney told ARRL. "We had our suspicions. We were very close to finding the source but were not quite there, but that helped the FCC." He said Hicks employed a "sophisticated" synthesized voice and very short transmissions across several repeaters to make him difficult to pin down.

According to the **NAL**, the agent monitored transmissions emanating from Hicks' station for about an hour and heard the station transmit several recorded

AMSAT Vice President of Engineering Jerry Buxton, NØJY, has announced that the Fox-1A CubeSat will launch on October 8th from California. It initially had been set to launch in August.

Fox-1A will include an FM transponder with an uplink frequency of 435.180 MHz, and a downlink frequency of 145.980 MHz.

The first phase of the Fox series 1-Unit CubeSats will allow simple ground stations using hand-held transceiver and simple dual-band antennas to make contacts. The [Fox-1](#) CubeSats also will be able to transmit continuous telemetry during normal transponder operation. The satellites will feature 200 bps telemetry in the audio spectrum below 300 Hz.



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>



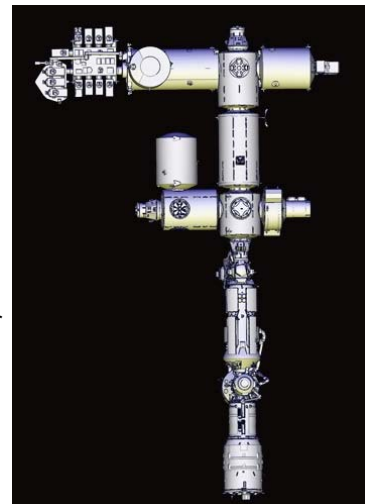
NASA is celebrating NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko and their yearlong mission to the International Space Station with the launch of the new [STEM on Station](http://www.nasa.gov/education/STEMstation) website!

The website features lesson plans, videos and up-to-the-minute education news. Follow along with Scott and Mikhail to find out what we hope to learn from their extended mission. Get to know the International Space Station, and learn how work there benefits life on Earth as well as prepares us for our future journey to Mars.

The STEM on Station website also features Learning Launchers. These "Teacher Toolkits" focus on research and activities related to the space station. Each month, a new Learning Launcher will feature One-Year Mission research or another topic related to the space station. Use lesson plans, videos and related resources to bring the International Space Station into your classroom. Since more topics will be featured, check back often to see what's coming next.

We are working "Off the Earth, For the Earth".. and in the Classroom!"

To check out the new website, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/education/STEMstation>.





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)

☐ **1st Qtr**
Jan-Mar

☐ **2nd Qtr**
Apr-Jun

☐ **3rd Qtr**
Jul-Sept

☐ **4th Qtr**
Oct-Dec

☐ (F1) Full Membership:

\$20.00

\$15.00

\$10.00

\$5.00

☐ (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:

\$10.00

\$7.50

\$5.00

\$2.50

☐ (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: _____

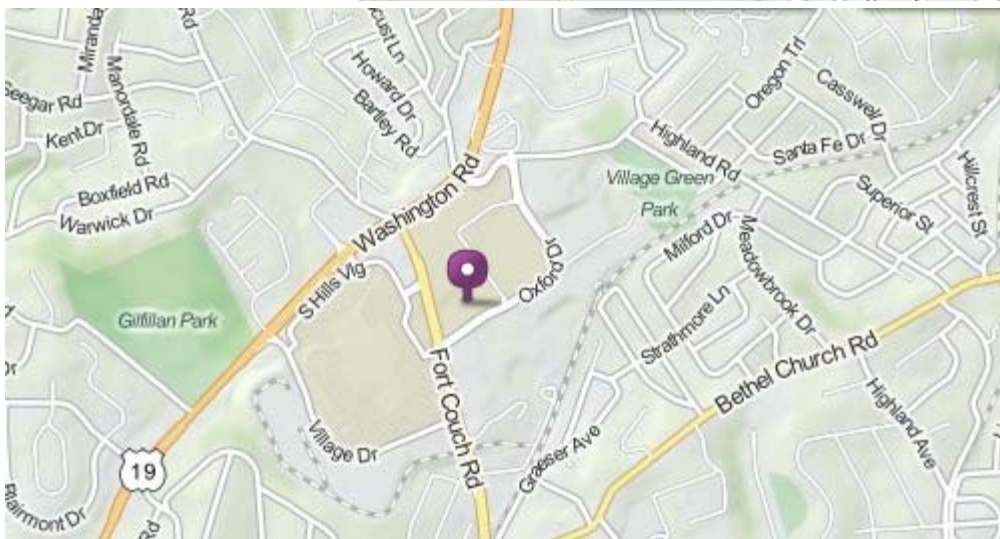
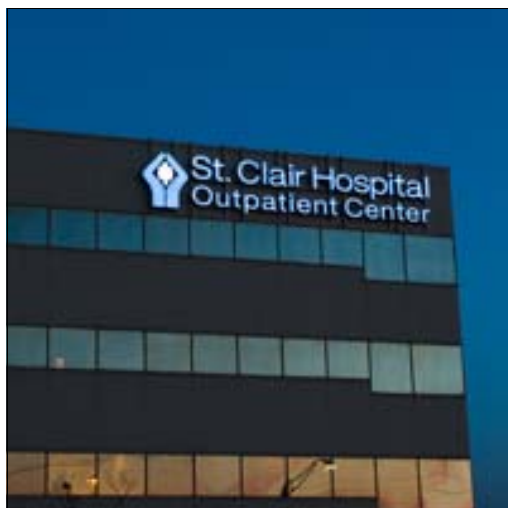
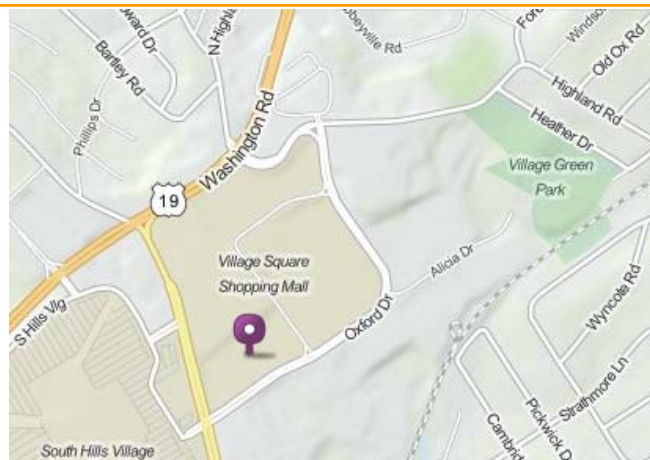
2015 WASH Meeting

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

