



# WASHRAG<sup>TM</sup>

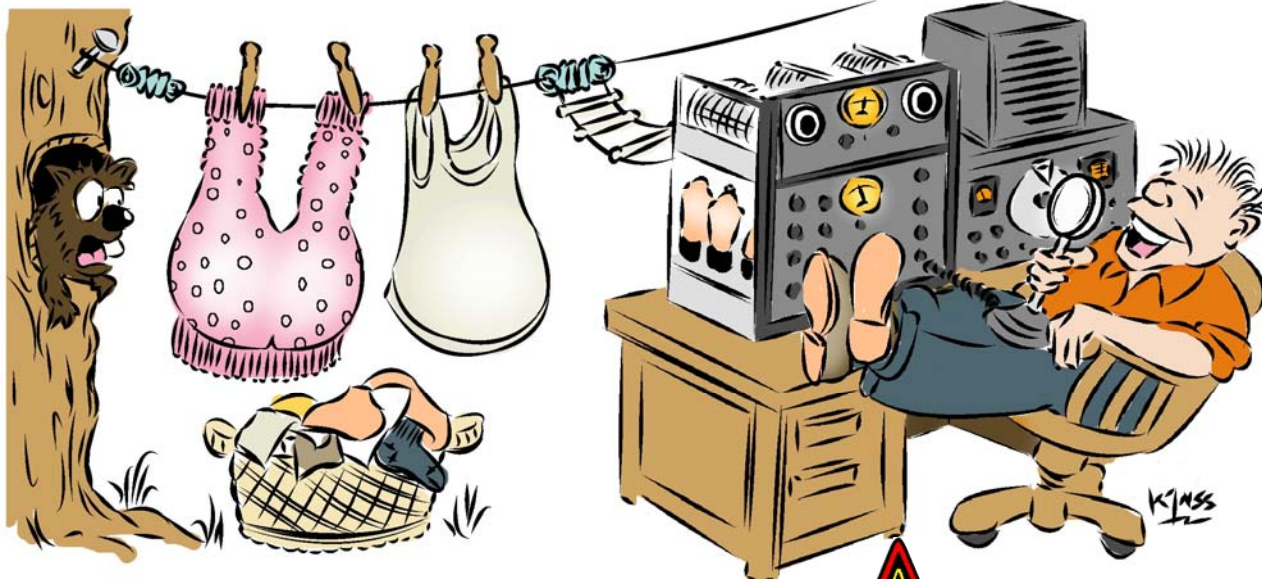


VOLUME 17 ISSUE 10  
OCTOBER 2015

Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

[www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org) [www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)



# WASHRAG™



VOLUME 17 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2015

## Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Nominations for 2016 Club Officers will take place this month! Other topics include the Pa QSO, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: A view of the N3FB/R tower through the frame of the new repeater shack, during it's reconstruction. Many more pictures inside on the demolition of the old shack & construction of the new one.

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Frank Bobro N3FB & Lori Bobro KB3GMU

## 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 **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

## THE LEGAL STUFF

**"The WASHRag™"** (formerly **"The Mariner™"**) is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 at n3sh dot org](mailto: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)

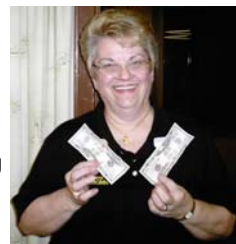
Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

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

Future test dates: Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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

### Carol's Comments



Hard to believe October is here and winter is around the corner. But then again, my favorite contest, PA QSO is also here. Rick Bell KB3IAC and several other club members will be operating from Fayette County. I understand that Larry K3VX may do some mobile as well. I hope our other members will turn on their radio's and do some operating. It is really a lot of fun especially if you get all 67 counties!

This Saturday, several of our members will be doing an emergency drill with St. Claire Hospital. This was arranged with Mr. Vernard and Rick Bell. This will be a new experience for all those members who plan to participate. I am sure our members will do their best!

God luck to all this Saturday and also have fun in the PA QSO party.

Happy Halloween to all.

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

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

If you have an ARRL.NET email address, be aware that there is a "phishing" scheme currently ongoing. If you get an email from "Arrl Webmail Admin" with the subject line "ACCOUNT UPGRADE", be aware that this email is NOT from the ARRL. Do not open it or reply to it; it's an attempt to harvest or even gain access to your user account and password. Simply delete the email.

Well, we know that there was the usual gathering of the flock, aka **the WASH Breakfast Gang**, at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. However, since Ye Editor was taking a long weekend with The Boss, and no one got any notes to him prior to deadline, afraid we can't report this month on who was there or what was discussed.

Our next gathering will be on Halloween Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 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?

Everyone who came to the **annual end-of-summer WASH Club Picnic** at Woodland Grove in South Park on September 13<sup>th</sup> had a great time. Usually, we luck out on some nice weather, but this year we ended up with a cool day. Regardless, a good time was had by all! Pictures of the picnic are scattered on several pages of the newsletter, mainly due to all of the OTHER pictures we tried to squeeze in this month as well...

**WASHNet resumed on September 14<sup>th</sup>**, the Monday after Labor Day. We're going to try Monday at 8 PM for the next few weeks, to see if that date & time suits our membership better. Seems that Sunday evenings have simply gotten way too crowded with other things going on! Please give it a try, and (either way) let our Net Manager, Glen KE7FD, know what you think.

The **2016 Pennsylvania QSO Party** is just around the corner. Carol KB3GMN & Rich N3SBFwill (probably) be returning to Clarion County (demand for Clarion is high, and reports are that no one else will be operating from there this year); 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. Plans were to operate using the call sign of the Laurel Highlands Council, W3GPC, although Rick has obtained the **N3S** 1x1 call for use during the event as well.

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 at arrl dot net](mailto:kb3iac@arrl.net)

Time flies when you're having fun... do you realize that nominations for **2016 WASH Officers** is due to take place at the October meeting? President (1 year term) and VP/Treasurer (2 year term) will be open for nominations. Who will it be?

Speaking of time flying... look for the official announcement for the **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** in next month's issue. Any suggestions on any tweaks to the rules needed are welcome!

And before you know it, **WASHFest 2016** will be here as well! More information on the hamfest will be coming up in the next few months as well. Stay tuned!

While we have a moment, a big "thank you!" to everyone who has lent a hand during the demolition of the old **N3FB/R** shack and the construction of the new one. With the new foundation and the new structure on it, the repeater's home should be up to the task for many years to come. Our apologies to anyone in any of the pictures who aren't identified (Ye Editor tries very hard not to guess, and he doesn't know EVERYONE on sight!) The good news, though, is that before fall and winter cold and weather conditions arrive, the repeater will be back in operation at it's old site but new home. (We do have to find a new guard mouse for it, though)

### WASHNet 2015 NCS Schedule

10/05/2015	Dave N3DFK	11/30/2015	Rick KB3IAC
10/12/2015	Fred KB3DCO	12/07/2015	Bob AB3ED
10/19/2015	Digital Night	12/14/2015	Carol KB3GMN
10/26/2015	Glen KE7FD	12/21/2015	Digital Night
11/02/2015	Larry K3VX	12/28/2014	Dave N3DFK
11/09/2015	Harold K3HCR	01/04/2016	TBD
11/16/2015	Digital Night	01/11/2016	TBD
11/23/2015	Bill W3WH	01/18/2016	TBD

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

## Minutes, September 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

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

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours. 18 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 Rick KB3IAC, second by Larry K3VX, passed unanimously.

### Committee reports:

**Treasurer (N3RDV):** A balance on the bank account was read & accepted. Short discussion on the merits of the club obtaining a PO Box, annual cost around \$66 to \$102

**Secretary (KB3ERQ):** No Report

**VE (W3WN):** Next VE Session at WPXI on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to N3FB for making the arrangements. VE's needed for the next session. N

**Repeaters (N3FB):** Demolition of the N3FB/R shack starts this Saturday, followed by foundation work before the new building can be constructed. The N3FB/R repeater will be down for about a month, which will give Frank time to perform some TLC on the system, and work on repeater link programming for the sites.

**WASHNet (KE7FD):** "What net?" Net resumes on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM.

Reminder to Net Control Stations to email stats to Sean for the web site, or to use the online log.

### Contests (K3VX):

- + Pa QSO team will be operating from the BSA Heritage Reservation in Fayette. 6 or 7 operators so far. Heritage has asked if we can do the JOTA the following weekend.
- + Babcock Grove in South Park has been reserved but not paid for, for FD 2016. Motion by Harold K3HCR, second by Bill W3WH, to hold FD 2016 at Babcock Grove — passed. A smaller effort will also take place at St. Clair Hospital as a first step.

**Public Service (N3IDH):** A post-meeting planning session is scheduled regarding the upcoming Simulated Emergency Test exercise with St. Clair Hospital.

**WASHFest 2016 (KB3GMN):** "Working on it"

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

**Newsletter (W3WN):** No report.

**President (KB3GMN):** September picnic: Carol & Richie will bring grills, charcoal, 24 cans of pop, plates, napkins, mustard & relish. We are asking everyone coming to bring something, please let Carol know.

**Old Business:** Mark & Rick discussed obtaining 501(c)(3) status. Requirements are not difficult, simply a lot of paperwork. We will need a real address, annual minutes, etc. Since our annual income is well under \$25,000 per year, it's pretty simple. Motion by Bill W3WH to get a PO Box at Castle Shannon USPS, second by Larry K3VX, passed unanimously.

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:** Larry K3VX demonstrated a tool that measures lengths of cable from end to end.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Harold K3HCR and carried.

Meeting adjourned 20:42



## WASH Spotlight: Picnic

Rich N3SBF, Bill W3WH, Carol KB3GMN and Rick KB3IAC talking things over at the annual **WASH** Club Picnic in South Park on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

More picnic pictures on Pages 13 & 16



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

AA3GM	KB3JHR	N3KFD	WASH FL	WASH SC	<b>Silent Keys</b>
AB3NM	KB3ORO	N3RDV	KA3UPY/M	N3RNX	
AE3DL	KB3PSB	N3RHT	W4ZE	WASH TN	AB3KA
K3HCR	KB3YCX	N3SBF	WASH NE	K3OL	K3EED
K3LGM	KC3DOF	NU3Q	NØPEU	KE3XB	K3LIE
K3SGT	KC3ELA	W3LE	WASH OR	N3YPB	KA3NMG
K3VX	KC4WTT	W3RWS	NØVLR	WASH TX	KB3ENX
KB3DCO	KE7FD	W3VFA	NØWPV	NB3C	KB3FNM
KB3GMN	KI5ZT	W3WH	KB3NVL	K3LGM	KB3FQT
KB3GMP	N1NCZ	W3WN	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	N3FZ
KB3GMU	N2QIV	WA3VSS	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	N3HKQ
KB3GUZ	N3DFK	WB4GCS	N8DPW	WASH VI	N3KEH
KB3IAC	N3FB			NP2JF	N3OBD
KB3IVX	N3IDH				N3SKR

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

Through September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2015/16 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

*Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change*

October 1 <sup>st</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> — 4 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> California QSO Party	<a href="http://www.cqp.org">http://www.cqp.org</a>
October 10 <sup>th</sup> — 11 <sup>th</sup>	58 <sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania QSO Party	<a href="http://www.nittany-arc.net">http://www.nittany-arc.net</a>
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh
October 16 <sup>th</sup> — 18 <sup>th</sup>	BSA Jamboree on the Air	<a href="http://jotajoti.info/">http://jotajoti.info/</a>
October 24 <sup>th</sup> — 25 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cqww.com/">http://www.cqww.com/</a>
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	WACOM Hamfest	<a href="http://www.wacomarc.org">http://www.wacomarc.org</a>
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
November 7 <sup>th</sup> — 9 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 21 <sup>st</sup> — 23 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 28 <sup>th</sup> — 29 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.cqww.com/">http://www.cqww.com/</a>
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
December 4 <sup>th</sup> — 6 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 12 <sup>th</sup> — 13 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 26 <sup>th</sup> — 27 <sup>th</sup>	Stu Perry Topband Challenge	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew/">http://www.kkn.net/stew/</a>
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
January 30 <sup>th</sup> — February 1 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	WASHFest 2016	CSVFD Memorial Hall, 3600 Library Rd, Castle Shannon
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 7 <sup>th</sup>		



## ***"The Repeater is Horizontally Polarized"***

The Demolition of the Old N3FB/R Repeater Building — Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



The Old Repeater Shack



Taking the Repeater PA out of the rack, a piece at a time



Demolition Begins



Placing the Repeater Rack in Frank & Lori's pickup





## ***"The Repeater is Horizontally Polarized"***

Demolition on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 — Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN



What's left of the frame looks ready to collapse...

**"Down Goes Frasier!"**



When she went, she went FAST!



Examples  
of the poor  
condition  
...the  
shack  
wouldn't  
have  
lasted the  
winter



## ***W3N 2015 US Islands Expedition to Neville Island Recap***

Bill Hill W3WH



In the August issue Of the Wash Rag I announced that we were going to journey to Neville island once again for the US islands QSO party. We were hopeful for better results than the first time we visited Neville Island and suffered a major solar flare knocking out all propagation Bad idea. Except for the fact that it was really nice to be with friends on a beautiful sunny morning little else went right.

During planning discussions for this outing Larry K3VX and I settled on using to ham sticks dipoles and my Crank IR vertical antenna. We chose these two do simplicity and also the lack of any available supports (trees). Larry, Ron W3WN, Harold K3HCR and I arrived about the same time and began setting things up the ham sticks dipoles when up relatively easily although we had to sacrifice 10 feet of height with one of the dipoles since the PVC mount we were using could easily have been mistaken for a wet noodle. At any rate the antennas went up and we set up the radio turn things on and realized we had no frequency display on the Ten-Tec Scout. Since this was my radio I should've realized what was wrong, but alas and alack, I didn't until after the weekend (the speed controller for the keyer was on, the radio was displaying the CW rate!) so we quickly substituted Harold's ICOM 718. Fortunately it worked well at that point optimism was still high among the group.

Ron W3WN began operating and although contacts were not easy or frequent he did work a couple of stations in Florida and a station or two in the Kansas QSO party. By that time, I discovered that I neglected to bring the tripod base for the Crank IR vertical and, therefore, we could not use it. I still don't believe I left it home!

By this time Rick Bell KB3IAC arrive on site, followed by the Danko's. Even though we heard virtually no island station activity, it was certainly a pleasant atmosphere. We soldiered on for a while and using our secret weapon Carol we made a couple more contacts but then we all had to admit that conditions were poor, and we were not hearing island stations and that the only sensible thing to do was pack up and go to lunch.

Five of us drove over to Kings and had a pleasant lunch. Rick and Ron had other obligations for the day and went home. I found out the next morning that Gary came at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon but we had already gone to Kings by that time. I imagine this will be the last time we attempt an operation from Neville Island even though perhaps the third time would be the charm.

Our next outing will be to Fayette County for the PA QSO party. It should be fun since there are nine or 10 **WASH** members to go at this time. With that many operators we really should be able to get a clean sweep. Stay tuned.

## ***New N3FB/R Shack: Work In Progress***



**Above: September 11<sup>th</sup>: The new concrete pad has been poured! Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Rick Bell KB3IAC**



**Above: Framing Day, September 20<sup>th</sup>! Rick KB3IAC, Frank N3FB, Harold K3HCR, Jim WB4GCS. Rick & Jim also spent 5 hours on September 18th completing the layout work for the new building.**

**Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Lori Bobro KB3GMU**



## FLdigi Technical Review Session

Rick Bell KB3IAC Photos courtesy of & © 2015 Ben Williams KB3ERQ

The following 13 operators were participants in our 1st FLdigi Technical Review Session on September 10<sup>th</sup>:

Mark N3RDV, Carol KB3GMN, Ben KB3ERQ, Frank N3FB, Lori KB3GMU, Bob NU3Q, Rich N3SBF, Harold K3HCR, Larry K3VX, Fred KB3DCO, Glen KE7FD, Mike WA3PYU, and Rick KB3IAC.

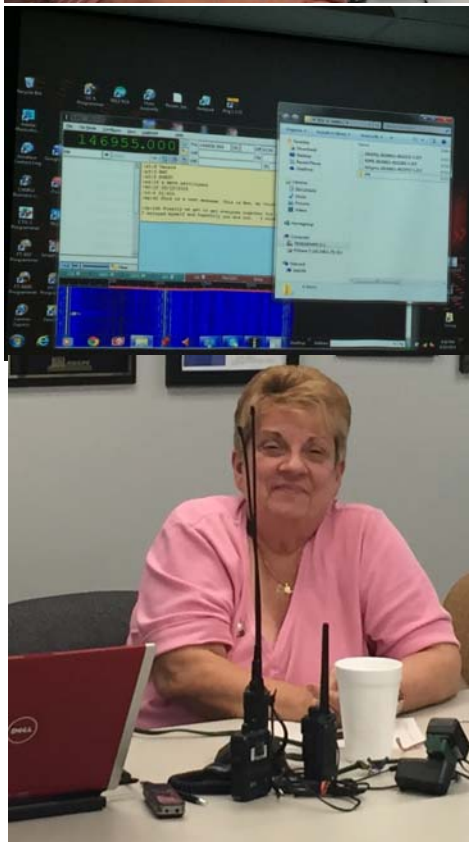
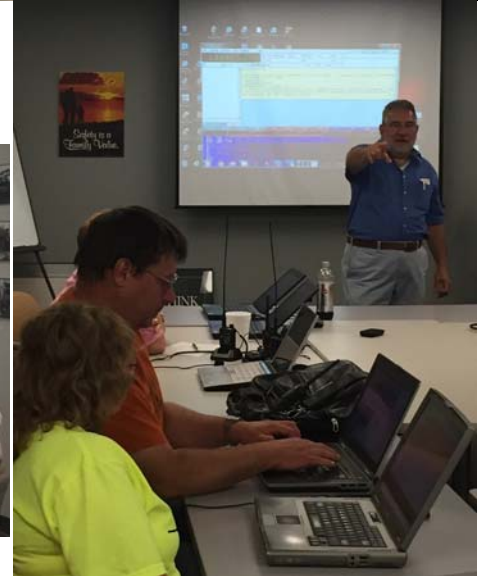
Everyone was successful in configuring FLdigi & FLmsg. All were able to send and receive multiple messages (ICS-213's). Incremental file naming and message storage directories were identified on each operators system. A very productive evening.

Mark will contact Harry and discuss the best method to store/retain multiple responses to a "Broadcast" ICS-213 message.

Here is a better method to "Print" ICS-213 forms:

- + Everyone using Microsoft Window should have WordPad.
- + Those of you with Windows 7 should have "PDF Complete". If you don't have "PDF Complete" – Please download and install. If you have a printer driver to generate a "PDF" file that will work also.
- + In your Microsoft O/S - associate ".txt" files with WordPad instead of NotePad.
- + Populate a standard ICS-213 form.
- + Save the form as normal.
- + Go to "File", "View", "Plain Text".
- + Step "4" will open Wordpad & display a text version of the 213.
- + You can then print the form to a printer or print the form to "PDF Complete".

This should launch WordPad and display a text version of the ICS-213 Form.



"The Usual Suspects" at the N3FB/R Site on September 26<sup>th</sup>, following another work party on rebuilding the repeater shack.

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright Jim Sanford WB4GCS





# Are Amateur Radio-Based Emergency Communications Still Relevant?

Phil McBride VA3QR, Ontario South Director, Radio Amateurs of Canada

There are many long-standing arguments within the Amateur Radio Community, and I'd have to say this one probably sits in the Top 10. It's one of those things that every ham has a strong opinion on, from "we are the be all and end all of disaster communications planning" down to "hams who show up to emergency scenes should be arrested." So what's the answer? Well, like most things in life, it doesn't lie in either of the extreme, but rather somewhere in the middle.

Let's start off with a couple of definitions:

- + Emergency: An event that requires prompt co-ordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the safety, health or welfare of people or to limit damage to property.
- + Disaster: An event that results in serious harm to the safety, health or welfare of people or in widespread damage to property.

Police, Firefighters and Paramedics rushing to the scene of a multi-vehicle collision on a major highway is a proper response to an emergency situation, and they have the necessary tools to deal with whatever may arise. However, an earthquake of a high enough magnitude could destroy infrastructure over a widespread area creating challenges for emergency responders. That would be defined as a disaster. There are some emergencies where Amateur Radio could play a role, but for the most part, we are involved in the planning of backup communications during a disaster at municipal, provincial and even federal levels of government.

There are three primary reasons why, even in this age of modern communications and network infrastructure, that Amateur Radio is at all considered relevant in disaster planning:

- + The ability for Amateur Radio to operate without significant, or any, infrastructure over any distance,
- + The ability for Amateur Radio equipment to operate with relatively little power from an abundance of sources accessible during a disaster (i.e.: any charged 12VDC battery), and
- + The knowledge base that a group of seasoned Amateur Radio operators can provide to planning and live operations.

Our place in a live disaster situation is very clear: somewhere out of the way of the bulk of those managing said disaster, sending messages to and receiving messages from other field units. The scope of that network should be defined well, **well** in advance of a disaster to avoid confusion and a long deployment time.

Our place in a live disaster, or any other emergency **is not in the way of the first responders, or any other involved professional**. Yes, I've read the articles, the posts on QRZ, the complaints of the "whackers" who wear tactical pants and reflective vests and have light bars on their trucks and show up where they're neither needed or wanted. That is what we as Amateurs should strive very hard to avoid.

A recent, very public example of Amateur Radio's involvement in a disaster came this past spring when Nepal [experienced a devastating earthquake](#). It was not an ideal situation (mind you during a disaster, no situation is ideal): there were no plans to deploy Amateur Radio in the event of an earthquake, there was no ARES-like infrastructure, nothing. One operator, Satish, 9N1AA, managed to power his radio, throw out a wire on a tuner, and managed to contact Amir, 4X6TT, and a net was formed and ran for just a little more than 6 days which passed health and welfare traffic. Once primary communications in/out of Nepal were restored, the net was closed and a number of Nepalese and Indian Amateur Radio operators deployed to multiple points inside Nepal and operated a disaster net on 40m.

During Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana in 2005, [Amateur Radio was essential in search and rescue operations](#), so much so that the ARRL was granted \$100,000 to supplement its [Ham Aid program](#), which loans communications go kits to areas affected by a disaster, sometimes even in [advance of a predicted event](#).

THAT is why Amateur Radio is still relevant in disaster communications planning. Without traditional networks, such as the telephone system, cellular telephony or the Internet, the government's ability to communicate outside the radius of their backup VHF or UHF handhelds is very limited. Even the trunk systems used by police and fire services here in Canada (and presumably the vast majority of "the west") are tied to the telephone network in some places and could be very easily disrupted by a disaster. Once that goes away, the 2 or 3 VHF frequencies they have access to would become easily overwhelmed.

In Canada, I have heard many complaints about the lack of cohesive preparedness planning strategizing within the national Amateur Radio community. Most recently, I read [an article by Peter West VE3HG](#) on the subject, to which [I replied to him](#) with my own opinions on the subject. In short, Canada, unlike the United States, doesn't have a strong, national emergency management agency. The US Federal Emergency Management Agency is responsible for initial response to any disaster that occurs within the United States, regardless of state lines or local government. Canada lacks this at a national level. As with most things Canadian, each Province is responsible for their own plans, and again, like most things Canadian, the Provinces rarely play nice together, if at all. If there was an inter-provincial event, the Ministry of Public Safety would probably step in to a degree, as would the Department of National Defence (more on that in a moment), but the Provinces are responsible for their own houses and that's it.

So where does that leave us as Amateurs? Well all disaster planning must start at home, and that means within our own municipalities. During my tenure as the RAC ARES Emergency Coordinator for North Halton (Halton Hills, Milton), Ontario, I was heavily involved in communications contingency planning with the Town of Halton Hills, and the Region of Halton. I sat in several mock disaster sessions, participated in tests, operated SETs, etc... If something really bad were to ever happen, the bulk of us will be involved in operations at this level, serving our local communities.

The next level up is within the provincial emergency management infrastructure. Should the disaster be on a scale where it encompasses several municipalities, communication between the affected areas and the provincial government will be crucial. Again, speaking from my own experiences as ARES EC and later as Assistant Section Manager for Ontario, Emergency Measures Ontario's management locations are fully equipped with Amateur Radio apparatus capable of operations from HF to UHF. This is when HF communications come into play. Establishing a two-way link between Toronto and Mississauga is possible on VHF or UHF. But to get from Toronto to North Bay, you're probably looking at 80m, 40m or better yet, our new 60m allocation. During an event, I would estimate that you'd have 10, maybe 15 operators both at the radio and on standby, or resting, within a provincial operations centre.

That brings us to Peter's question. What about a disaster on a national scale? First off, as a father, I'd rather not spend too much time fathoming the scale of such an event (i.e.: it scares the \*\*\*\* out of me). But if that were to happen, realistically, the Ministry of Public Safety would make the necessary formal requests to the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Forces would be deployed. Enter CFARS: The Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio System ([didn't I just write about this?](#)). CFARS' network is spread across the whole of Canada, even up into the far, far north. CFARS has access to its own frequency assignments that are outside the established Amateur Radio bands, its own RMS Winlink e-mail gateways, and a group of civilian and military radio operators trained in message handling on a national scale. Where in its early days, CFARS was a service used to boost morale by providing phone patches between overseas troops and their families back home, it has evolved into a viable HF communications network able to easily pass traffic from one corner of the country to the other. RAC and CFARS do liaise with each other, and each knows where to find the other should





# China Successfully Launches 9 Amateur Radio Satellites

Alan King BA1DU, Wei Mingchuan BG2BHC, AMSAT News Service & the American Radio Relay League

After being postponed several times, nine [Chinese satellites](#) carrying Amateur Radio payloads were launched on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 2300 UTC, separating from the Long March launch vehicle about 15 minutes later. China Amateur Satellite Group CAMSAT CEO Alan Kung, BA1DU, has said that four of the microsatellites and two of the CubeSats included in the launch have been designated as XW-2A through XW-2F. The other three satellites — a CubeSat, a nanosatellite, and a picosatellite — carry the designations CAS-3G, CAS-3H ([LilacSat-2](#)), and CAS-3I (NUDT-Phone-Sat), respectively.

All of the new satellites have downlinks on 2 meters and uplinks on 70 centimeters. Satellite enthusiasts have been enjoying the sudden surfeit of spacecraft to work.

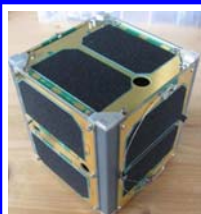
"So many signals, so little time," was the observation on the AMSAT-BB from Alan Biddle WA4SCA, who lives just south of Nashville.

The XW-2A through XW-2F satellites are using the same type of antenna. These are quarter wavelength deployable monopole whip antennas and made of steel tape, including a UHF uplink antenna and a VHF downlink antenna for each satellite.

Satellite Frequencies (MHz)	TX Power	Modulation	Satellite Frequencies (MHz)	TX Power	Modulation
XW-2A (CAS-3A)			XW-2E (CAS-3E)		
Digital Telemetry: 145.640	20 dBm	9.6/19.2kbps, GMSK	Digital Telemetry: 145.890	20 dBm	9.6kbps, GMSK
CW Beacon: 45.660	17 dBm	22wpm, CW	CW Beacon: 145.910	17 dBm	22wpm, CW
Inverting Linear Transponder			Inverting Linear Transponder		
Uplink: 435.030 - 435.050			Uplink: 435.270 - 435.290		
Downlink: 145.665 - 145.685	20 dBm		Downlink: 145.915 - 145.935	20 dBm	
XW-2B (CAS-3B)			XW-2F (CAS-3F)		
Digital Telemetry: 145.705	20 dBm	9.6/19.2kbps, GMSK	Digital Telemetry: 145.955	20 dBm	9.6kbps, GMSK
CW Beacon: 145.725	17 dBm	22wpm, CW	CW Beacon: 145.975	17 dBm	22wpm, CW
Inverting Linear Transponder			Inverting Linear Transponder		
Uplink: 435.090 - 435.110			Uplink: 435.330 - 435.350		
Downlink: 145.730 - 145.750	20 dBm		Downlink: 145.980 - 146.000	20 dBm	
XW-2C (CAS-3C)			DCBB (CAS-3G)		
Digital Telemetry: 145.770	20 dBm	9.6/19.2kbps, GMSK	Downlink: 145.475 Digital Telemetry		9.6kbps, GMSK
CW Beacon: 145.790	17 dBm	22wpm, CW	437.950 Digital Telemetry		9.6kbps, GMSK
Inverting Linear Transponder					
Uplink: 435.150 - 435.170					
Downlink: 145.795 - 145.815	20 dBm				
XW-2D (CAS-3D)			LilacSat-2 (CAS-3H)		
Digital Telemetry: 145.835	20 dBm	9.6/19.2kbps, GMSK	CW Beacon 437.200		
CW Beacon: 145.855	17 dBm	22wpm, CW	APRS		
Inverting Linear Transponder			Uplink: 144.390		AFSK
Uplink: 435.210 - 435.230			Downlink: 144.390		AFSK
Downlink: 145.860 - 145.880	20 dBm		FM Transponder		
			Uplink: 144.350		FM
			Downlink: 437.225		FM
			NUDT-Phone-Sat (CAS-3I)		
			Downlink: 437.300		Digital
			Telemetry 9.6kbps, FSK		



The AMSAT-BB reports CW beacon activity from the satellites after launch, although the actual orbit is reported to be running approximately two minutes later than the estimated Keps.



In response to a breaking opportunity, AMSAT and Spaceflight, Inc have arranged for two of the [Fox series](#) of CubeSats — **Fox-1D** and **Fox-1C** — to share a ride into space.

Fox-1D will accompany **Fox-1C** on the maiden flight of the SHERPA system on a SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle.

Fox-1D is identical to Fox-1C, but operates on different frequencies and carries the University of Iowa HERCI (High-Energy Radiation CubeSat Instrument) radiation-mapping experiment as a hosted payload.

Once in orbit, Fox-1D will provide additional selectable U/V or L/V repeater capabilities and will be able to downlink Earth images from the Virginia Tech camera experiment. Launch is currently planned for the first quarter of 2016.

AMSAT has said its Fox-1A and Fox-1B CubeSats will go aloft as part of the NASA Educational Launch of Nanosatellites ([ELaNa](#)) program, which offers free launches to educational entities and encourages science missions. Fox-1A is scheduled to launch on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on the Fox satellites, see "[Fox-1, the New Era of Amateur Radio Satellites](#)," by Dave Jordan AA4KN, in the July 2015 issue of QST.

— American Radio Relay League



**Are Emergency Communications Still Relevant?**  
Continued from  
Page 10

anything occur.

I strongly believe that Amateur Radio still has an important role to play in contingency communications. What's important is to remember that our role is to build links and pass traffic over those links. That means working with authorities ahead of time to determine their needs and assist in fulfilling them, training ourselves to be what those authorities need us to be, and then getting the heck out of the way when we're not needed.

This is only my opinion, formed from many years as a hobbyist and as one who has enjoyed being involved in contingency planning. My only hope is that we never have to find out if I'm right or wrong.



## Stacking UHF Antennas (Part 1)

Jim Sanford PE WB4GCS [wb4gcs@amsat.org](mailto:wb4gcs@amsat.org)

I have been working for years to assemble a contest-class vhf/uhf/microwave station. Many of you have helped me erect the tower and hang some of the antennas. Some of you are aware that I have an array of 4 long yagis for 902 MHz and 1296 MHz. These will constitute a serious antenna array.

Several years ago, Frank, N3FB, accompanied me to a location near Philly to pick up these antennas and some other accessories, like combiners and preamps. They were originally configured in an H-frame arrangement, maximizing gain in both elevation and azimuth. As I would have predicted, the original owner found the horizontal pattern way too sharp, so he reconfigured (as I would have) the arrays to be vertically stacked arrangement of four yagis. This gives the same gain, by compressing the vertical pattern, with the benefit of a bit broader horizontal pattern, which makes aiming easier. I was thrilled to find that he had already done what I would have done, and so I preassembled the array to hang from a cross boom just above the upper thrust bearing on the tower.

One day I was doing the "nuke" thing, just standing there as I was contemplating how to get the preassembled array up the tower. (NO WAY I want to build this at altitude!) As I stood there, I realized a couple of things. First, the booms were not coplanar – they were not pointed in exactly the same direction. OK, not good, but I can live with this, it may make searching a bit easier. THEN I realized, that the driven elements were not in the same plane. This is a show-stopper, at frequencies where *one millimeter* is significant, this kills all gain. (See Photo 1) SO, I aborted plans to install, and decided to correct the mounting arrangement. I have been pondering how to do this for two or three years

I broke the objective down into two functional requirements:

- + the booms must be coplanar – all 4 antennas must point in the same direction
- + the driven elements for each array must all be in the same plane

Now, the right way to do this is to spool up the computer driving the CNC milling machine and make a bunch of identical components. Oh, silly chrome dome, you don't *have* a CNC milling machine.

As I contemplated how to achieve these requirements, with equipment *I do have*, over several years, I defaulted to something I learned years ago in woodworking – jigs are the key. SO, I set out to build jigs to get the booms coplanar, and more important, to get the driven elements coplanar.

Not having a CNC mill, any jig in metal (preferred) was too hard, so I decided to do it in hardwood. I picked up some red oak (infamous for breaking brass screws) at the big box place.

To get and establish a standard, I disassembled three of the antennas, and found a factory original boom support piece of 3/4-inch square aluminum support pieces. Those became my "standard", one for 902 MHz and one for 1296 MHz – as I suspected, they were NOT the same!

The first objective was to get the mounts for each antenna boom to the cross support located identically between antennas. First, I used a woodworking bar gauge to measure the reference antenna and establish the distance between the boom support mounting holes for the to-be-duplicated supports, (Figure 2)



Next, I took the reference boom support for each band, and used it to mark the mounting points in an oak jig. Note, in the top photo (3), the brad-nailed stop, installed to make the rear of the boom support tube a reference plane. Note also, the Irwin clamp. I have many of these. You can't have too many clamps, and I don't.

Once I had the rear (which is now the reference) registered and fixed, I used the factory originals to mark the mounting holes for each array. Note that the 902 MHz and 1296 MHz mounting arrangements are different (Photo 4).

Note also, that as I build my template, I'm using a 5/64<sup>th</sup> drill bit to keep the holes small. This increases precision, and reduces (but does NOT eliminate) enlargement of the template hole as it's used to drill into aluminum pieces. Fortunately, due to the use of the oak wood, I could not detect any deleterious enlargement of the pilot holes as I drilled four antenna boom supports.

Photo 5 is a close-up of the brad-nailed backstop used to establish precise registry and reference of the rear of the boom support square tube.

Photo 6 is a close-up of a new tube on the jig and against the stop. Note that the stop is not quite as tall as the tube. This is intentional, when the whole assembly is inverted for drilling, I want the tube to be on the bench, so that everything is perpendicular.

**Photo 1 —The decidedly non-coplanar arrays**



**Photo 2 —Measuring the boom support mounting spacing**



**Photo 5**

**Photo 6**



## Stacking UHF Antennas (Part 1)

continued from Page 12



Photo 7

Photo 7 shows how we align the "tube" so that the drilled holes are centered. Note the tabs which are brad-nailed to the oak template; note also the reference factory tube on the left.

Next, the clamping arrangement to keep things stable for drilling (Photo 8).

Drilling the forward boom mount hole – less than perfectly centered, but *they will all be identical*. I would really have liked to do this on the drill press, but the boom support tube and template were long to the point of being awkward. Fortunately, the drill I'm using has a bubble to tell me that the drill is vertical. Advantage of the small hole size is that it is easy to be vertical and on target.

So, here's the result. (See Photo 13) The rear mount for the antenna boom and the mount to the cross support angle are very close – much better than what I received. I used the small drill bit to provide a pilot; the larger holes were done on the drill press and came out just fine, using the 5/64-inch pilot hole to center the larger drill.

The front holes (Photo 11) came out pretty consistent as well.

While I doubt anyone else is demented enough to try and make four identical 1296 antennas, I hope the templating techniques described here are useful.

Next month, in Part 2:

Templating and drilling the cross support angle

(All photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2015 Jim Sanford WB4GCS)



Photo 11



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10

## "Seen" at the WASH 2015 Annual Picnic



More Picnic Pictures on Page 16



## CQ WW DX Contest Survey

Randy Thompson K5ZD [k5zd@cqww.com](mailto:k5zd@cqww.com)

The CQ World Wide DX Contest Committee is conducting a [survey](#) to gather feedback about the contest from participants.

"The responses will help us improve the contest and make important decisions about the rules," the CQ WW Contest Committee said.

Anyone who has participated in the CQ WW DX Contest in the past 3 years is invited to take the survey, which is available in five languages and should take about 10 minutes to complete. An invitation with a link to the survey has been sent via e-mail to everyone who submitted a log in the 2014 SSB and CW CQ WW events.

Participants should only take the survey once. The deadline to submit surveys is October 10<sup>th</sup>.

More information at <http://cqww.com/index.htm>



### Team Chesterfield announced on 29 September:

The team will board the boat at 10:30AM, Monday Sept 28th. The skipper plans to be at Customs and Immigration earlier in the morning to clear the boat for sailing.

Barring any delays we will leave as soon as possible.

Being the first workday after a 4 day holiday we are hoping the formalities can be processed quickly and we'll be underway.

Please use the Pilot for your geography ([tx3x.com](http://tx3x.com)) to send comments to the team.

Good luck to all that need Chesterfield, we'll see you in the pile-ups.

— Cheers, Team Chesterfield Islands DX-pedition



The South Sandwich Islands are a cold and inhospitable place. At 59 degrees south, Southern Thule Island is one of the most remote places on Earth.

Southern Thule is closer to the polar circle and the South Pole than either Bouvet Island or Heard Island. To get there, we will voyage the Drake Passage and brave strong winds and high seas. Our sole focus is to get you in our logs.

The Intrepid DX Group is pleased to announce that all of our plans are moving forward very well. We are pleased to report that all of our gear has arrived in Tauranga, New Zealand. It has been fumigated and is now being stored before it is loaded onto the RV Braveheart for her long voyage to meet the team in the Falkland Islands.

We intend to depart from Stanley, the Falkland Islands on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Approximately five days later, we will arrive in King Edward Point, South Georgia where we will meet with the Government of South Sandwich and South Georgia and undergo a safety and biodiversity briefing. We will then voyage three more days south to Southern Thule Island in the South Sandwich chain of Islands.

We expect to arrive at South Sandwich on January 17<sup>th</sup> however, that is dependent on the weather and sea conditions. Our ship Captain tells us that it is common to encounter rough seas on the way to South Sandwich and that rough seas and bad weather can prevent our landing by several days. We plan to be on South Sandwich for ten days operating as **VP8STI**. We will then break down our camp and voyage three days back to Husvik Bay, South Georgia where we expect to land and set up operations on or about February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will operate from South Georgia Island as **VP8SGI**.

Our main priority is to make a great impact to the need for South Sandwich contacts and we will sacrifice our time at South Georgia to ensure that we make that impact from South Sandwich.

We expect to return to Stanley, the Falkland Islands on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be QRV from Stanley as **VP8IDX** until our flights home on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

When our voyage starts, you can see our location in real time on a map on our website. You will know when we are about to land or are departing one island for the other. We will be in daily satellite communications with our Pilots, and support team. You can get a feel for propagation as we will be QRV as **VP8IDX/MM** on the way to and from the islands.

— Paul Ewing N6PSE / Intrepid DX Group



## DX News Briefs



T2GC is currently QRV through 14 October. More info at <http://www.c21gc.com/> QSL via LZ1GC — LZ1GC

**NH0/DL2AH** is currently QRV from Rota Island through 16 October, 40—10, mostly SSB. Then he will be QRV as **V63AH**. QSL via DL2AH — DL2AH

**E51DLD** is QRV through 3 October, 160—10. QSL via W6HB — W6HB

**WS5K/KH8** is QRV through 4 October. QSL via MØURX — WS5K

**TX7A** is QRV from Moorea Island OC-046 through 31 October. Most of his activity has been on 20 meters CW. QSL via JA1GZV only — JA1GZV

**3B8/DL7RJ** will be QRV 5—30 October, CW & SSB, 160—10 with a focus on 160. QSL via DL7RJ — OPDX

V73D, a "light weight DXpedition", will be QRV from Majuro OC-029, 13—28 October, 160—10, CW, SSB & RTTY. They plan four stations "around the clock" More information at <http://v73d.mydx.de/> QSL via DL4SVA — V73D

KK9A will again be QRV as **P40A** 18 -15 October, 160—10, CW & SSB. QSL as always via WD9DZV — KK9A

W2GD will again be QRV as **P40W** 20—28 October including the CQ WW SSB contest. He will be QRV outside the contest as time permits on 160/80 and 30/17/12 CW. QSL via N2MM — W2GD, OPDX

QRV from Manhiki Atoll OC-014 in the North Cook Islands through 27 October will be **E51MQT** (QSL via N7QT), **E51MBX** (N7BX), and **E51MKW** (KZ1W). They will be QRV 10 - 160, SSB CW & RTTY -- DX World

G3RWF will be QRV from Rwanda as **9X0NH** 18 November - 2 December, mainly CW with some SSB & some activity in the CQWW CW DX Contest QSL via G3RWF-- G3RWF

The team who will be QRV from Tuvalu & Fiji report that as of September, the T2TT call has been confirmed, but they are still waiting on confirmation of the 3D2RJ call. They will be QRV as **T2TT** 24 November - 2 December, and **3D2RJ** (pending) 3 - 11 December, 20 - 10, possibly 160. One op has dropped out and they are looking for a replacement. QSL T2TT via K8NA, 3D2RJ via N7RO. More info at <http://www.cq-tuvalu-fiji.com/> -- KW7XX

**5W0IF** will be QRV from Upolu OC-097 25 November—3 December, 80-10 including the CQ WW CW contest. QSL via ZL1IF — OPDX

F4EGX will be on a work assignment sometime in December from Kerguelen as **FT4XU**. Little further information available, although he indicates that he will travelling as light as possible.-- DX World

W8AKS will be QRV as **8P9EX** 5 - 12 December, 40-10. QSL via W8AKS

**T88UW** will be QRV 7 - 14 January, HF, from Koror Island OC-009, QSL via JH7IPR — OPDX

## QSL Routes

3Z7ØZK via SP5ZRW — DBØSDX	JW/OX5M via OZØJ — DBØSDX
5R8SV via G3SWH — JA1HGY	KG4AW via KG9LB — KG9LB
5QØT via HA8MT — DBØSDX	KG4DY via KE4KDY — KE4KDY
8Q7AM via IWØHBY — DBØSDX	KG4WV via W4WV — W4WV
AN7ØNU via EA7NL — EA7NL	NP4A via W3HNK — NP4A
C4I via DJ8OG — DBØSDX	OJØDX via DL3DXX — DBØSDX
C6ANT via VE3EY — VE3EY	P4ØW via N2MM — W2GD
C6ASL via K5GS — K5GS	T6DD via 4O4A — K9MM
CR3L via DJ6QT — CR3L	TM2F via F4GTT — DBØSDX
D44TUK via DL2MDU — D44TUK	TX7A via JA1GZV — JA1GZV
DXØP via WA6LOS — KUØA	YJØGA via ZL3GA — JA1HGY
E6GG via G3TXF — E6GG	YW6X via W4SO — DO1DXX
ET3AA via N2OO — JA1HGY	Z6ØA via OH2BH — OH2BN
HFØWFF via SP5ZIM — DBØSDX	ZA1KS via Z62FB — OH2BN

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

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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A disastrous coronal mass ejection (CME) will be the focus of a national Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) communication exercise in early November, and MARS is hoping to collaborate with Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) groups. The MARS exercise will get under way on November 8<sup>th</sup> and continue into November 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be a quarterly contingency HF exercise in support of the US Department of Defense.

"The exercise scenario will simulate a CME event and focus on actions that radio operators should take prior to and following a CME event," explained Army MARS Program Manager Paul English WD8DBY. "One thing we want to continue to work on is the interface with the greater Amateur Radio community."

CMEs are huge explosions of gas, plasma, and electromagnetic radiation from the Sun, which are responsible for geomagnetic storms. Solar flares can accompany CMEs, but they are not the same thing. A CME can take anywhere from 1 day to 3 days to reach Earth. CMEs occur all the time, but most bypass Earth with minor effects. A major CME that hits Earth directly could damage or destroy satellites as well as terrestrial communication and electrical power infrastructure.

English said the November would simulate a radio blackout as well as infrastructure damage. "During the exercise, we will simulate the blackout with a 3 hour pause, and then we will bring stations back on air and begin handling requests for information," he told ARRL.

Training objectives for this exercise will include understanding what a CME is and how much forecast lead time can be expected; the effects associated with a CME, and what precautions radio operators take to protect their equipment, prior to a severe CME.

After the simulated CME, operators will assess its effects and begin reporting that information. This will involve "interoperation with Amateur Radio operators and groups to assist in assessment.

Amateur Radio operators, ARES, and RACES are encouraged to participate in this exercise. [Contact](#) MARS for more information.

## FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 — With the deadline to submit proposals to World Radiocommunication Conference 2015

(<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/conferences/wrc/2015/Pages/default.aspx>)

now less than 2 months away, it's still unclear how at least one agenda item of importance to the Amateur Radio community will fare.

That is agenda item 1.4, which calls on the delegates to consider a secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz (60 meters). In the US and in most other countries that have privileges there, ham radio has a set of fixed channels at 5 MHz - not necessarily the same from one country to the next, although most are common.

As ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price N4QX, explained last spring following the second Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM), the agenda item 1.4 proposals at the CPM were "all over the map - ranging from no change to an expansive allocation of 5275-5450 kHz, with explicit suggestions of 15 kHz and 100 kHz in between, and a few methods with details to be filled in later." As Price summarized at the time, "[T]here is a wide divergence of opinion, and no certainty as to the outcome."

In his July 2015 report to International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 Conference, to be held this October in Indonesia, ARRL CEO David Sumner K1ZZ, said that while the US is "generally supportive" of the Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite services at WRCs and in other International Telecommunication Union (ITU) venues, "it has been difficult to gain support from the federal government side for agenda item 1.4." The ARRL is a member of IARU Region 3 to represent the interests of FCC-licensed radio amateurs residing in Guam; the Northern Marianas; American Samoa; Baker, Howland, Jarvis, and Wake islands; Palmyra Atoll, and Kingman Reef.

When he submitted the report to IARU R3 in July, Sumner had said that the best ARRL could hope for in the US position was a 25 kHz secondary allocation at 5 MHz, "and only then if this becomes the CITEL Inter-American Proposal (IAP)," he explained. CITEL completed its work earlier this month and will put forward an IAP for a 175 kHz secondary allocation at 5275-5450 kHz, with support by up to a dozen countries. That's not a proposal the US or Canada could support, however. Sumner noted that as of now, only one formal proposal for agenda item 1.4 has been submitted, and it calls for no change at 5250-5450 kHz. It came from the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC), the regional telecommunications organization made up primarily of the former Commonwealth of Independent States countries of which Russia is the largest.

Other regional telecommunication organizations still have not submitted formal proposals. Sumner said this week that it's not possible to predict what might happen at the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) meeting in a few weeks. CEPT is the umbrella organization for 48 European nations.

"We appreciate the strong support from so many Latin American and Caribbean administrations and remain hopeful that a favorable consensus can be reached in Geneva in November," Sumner said.

In Europe, Hungary's telecommunications regulator NMHH has begun issuing temporary permits to radio amateurs there to operate in the band 5350-5450 MHz on a secondary basis for research. The permits are valid for 3 months, and holders may reapply after that.

According to the Dutch Amateur Radio Association (VERON), telecommunication regulator Agentschap Telecom is expected in September to release 5350-5450 kHz to radio amateurs on a secondary basis for all operating modes. The primary users of the band, which include the Netherlands military, already have agreed to the allocation. Several other European countries already have 60 meter allocations.

## Silent Keys



Robert Gawryla W3NEM, former ARRL WPa SCM, 85, State College, PA, August 21<sup>st</sup>

Has Roadway found the tower yet?



# WACOM HAMFEST 2015

## Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington PA

Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on 146.790 (No PL)



First Prize:  
Second Prize:  
(3) Third Prizes:

Ameritron 811 HF Amplifier  
Large Screen Hi-Definition TV  
Yaesu 2900R 75 W 2 meter Radio

Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM

Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

Black Box:

What is it? It's a Mystery!  
— Only 50 Tickets Sold! —

VE Testing starting at 9:00 AM

Check [www.wacomarc.org](http://www.wacomarc.org) for Updates

Vendors contact:

Bud Plants N3TIR [bud@n3tir.com](mailto:bud@n3tir.com) 724-350-6745

WACOM, c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ, 236 Chambers  
Ridge Rd, West Alexandria PA 15376

## "Seen" at the WASH 2015 Annual Picnic



The weather on September 13<sup>th</sup> was a cool for a Sunday afternoon, but that didn't stop the intrepid faithful from getting together at Woodland Grove in South Park for the annual WASH Club Picnic.

Photos on this page and Page 13 courtesy of and © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN





# 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: \_\_\_\_\_





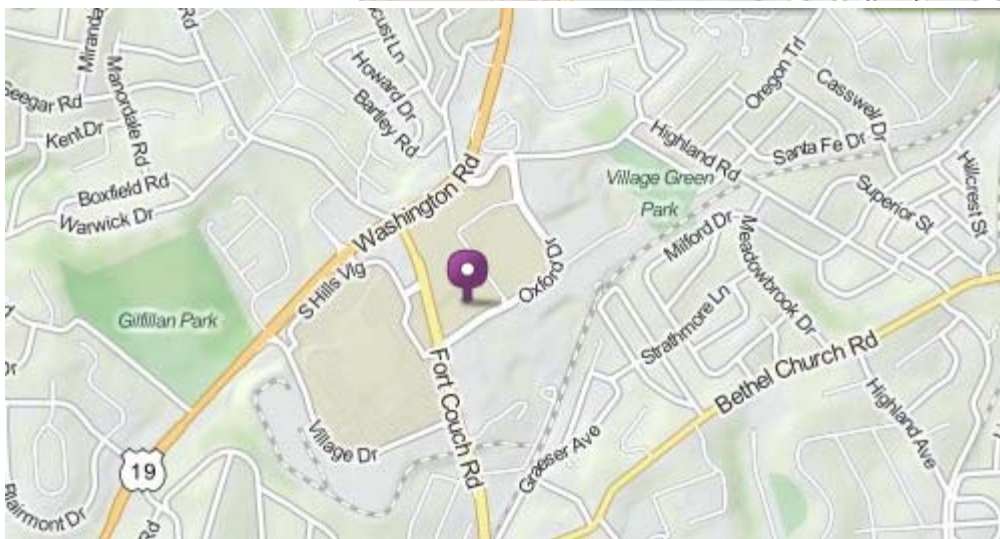
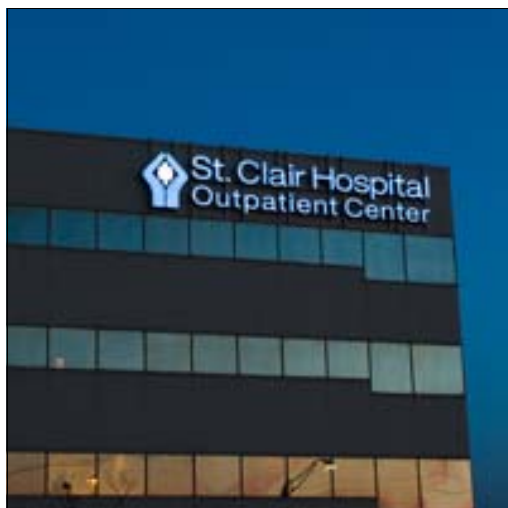
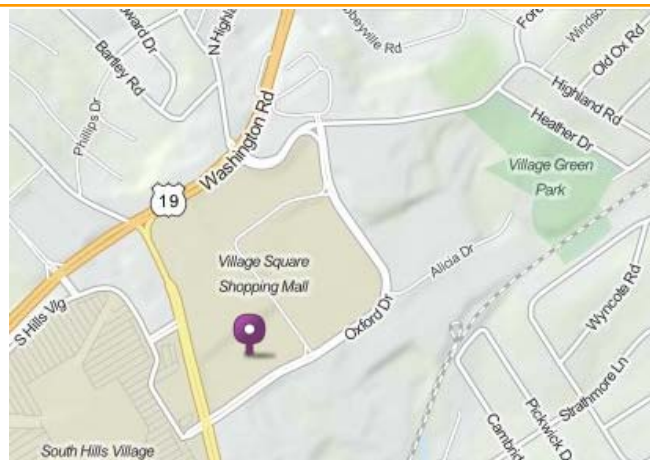
# 2015 WASH Meeting

## 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



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