



# WASHRAG<sup>TM</sup>

TM



Wireless Association of South Hills

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 01  
JANUARY 2016

OUT

MIDWEST  
MICROWAVE  
PTER  
EL 2578

NOISE COM INC  
PARAMUS, N.Y. 11651  
NOISE SOURCE  
MODEL NO.

07616

SERIAL NO.

8852

28 VOLTS

CALIBRATION

FREQ. GHz

ENR DB

1.00	15.23
1.50	15.81
2.00	15.71
2.50	15.95
3.00	15.67
3.50	15.66

DATE

BY

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

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





## WASHRAG™



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 01

JANUARY 2016

### Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2016**, 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.

Meeting topics will include the 2 Meter Simplex Contest, **WASHFest 2016**, club plans for 2016, and more.

See you there!

Cover Photo: Ready for installation, the 146.955 N3SH/R pre-amp

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2015, 2016 Jim Sanford WB4GCS

## WASH 2016 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	Jim Sanford WB4GCS
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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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

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

**"The WASHRag"**, **"The Mariner"**, **SHARCfest**, **South Hills Hamfest**, **WASHfest**, **WASHfest 2016**, **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 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 February 28<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2016**, 3600 Library Road, Castle Shannon, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

**Pre-registration is required. Walk-ins will NOT be accepted** due to limited available space. If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liaison Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: [w3wn@n3sh.net](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.net)

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

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

Future test dates: 2016 Schedule To Be Announced

### Carol's Comments

First I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and found nice presents under the tree!

With that we start a new year, 2016. First item up for business is our 2 meter simplex contest on January 16<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 11 PM. Rules are on Page 9 of this newsletter.

Second item, of course, is our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Hamfest, **WASHFest 2016**. So far every thing is coming along. With everyone's help, it will go smoothly.

Then we can look forward to Pizza Night in March!

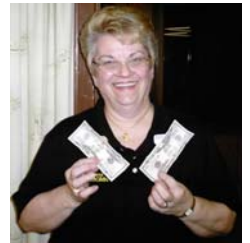
I would like to wish all a Happy New Year.

See you at the meeting.

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b



At their annual January board meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors will be electing a new ARRL President. Kay Craigie N3KN, is stepping aside.

Also, ARRL CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ, and ARRL COO Harold Kramer WJ1B, will be retiring this year after many years of services to the ARRL and the Amateur Radio community.

So, what did Santa (or whomever) bring you for Christmas? That thought was on everyone's minds on the last Saturday of the year, including members of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** who gathered once again at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. This month's debaters of the merits of anthracite in the stocking included N3FB, KB3GMU, WB4GCS, KC4WTT, N1NCZ, N3IDH, W3WH, N3DFK, N3BPB, KB3YCX and W3WN. Discussions included the upcoming Parkway East closings, chisels and gauges, monster wheels on Santa's sleigh, anyone here from Jack W9UK lately?, WSHH-FM and Christmas Mmusic, adding radials, trading Neal Walker (boo! hiss!) .955 is no longer deaf, the .65 project status, "it's a Wonderful Life", Tony the Tiger and Christmas movies and music, global climate change, watching old TV, Soupy Sales reruns, "How do I get to Buffalo NY"? (ask Primanti's), orange lights in Christmas trees, live nativity scenes, military surplus receivers, and the merits of the Jets vs. the Steelers.

Our first gathering for 2016 will be on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, as usual at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at 19, Canonsburg. Our "usual" tables will be reserved, but **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time, so that Suzie & her crew will have enough space available for us. (We really don't want to fight the State Police for seats... we'd lose!) See you there?

On a personal note, as some of you are aware, the Boss had some procedures done in mid December, so it's been a trying few weeks both for Ye Editor and Little Miss Field Day as she recovers. The good news is that she is making a successful recovery (famous last words). On behalf of the both of us, thank you for your kind words and support, and for bearing Ye Editor when he doesn't know if he's going to scratch his watch or wind his back...

Our **annual 2 Meter Simplex contest is coming up** in just a few days, as we type this. Rules are in the newsletter, and new contest chair Jim WB4GCS is revamping the entry forms to make them easier to use than ever. Now more than ever, as you cruise the area repeaters and nets, PLEASE help put the word out that the event is alive, well, kicking, and in need as always of a few hours of participation. And please don't forget to mention that every entry gets a free prize ticket to **WASHFest!**

Just a few weeks later will be the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual WASHFest 2016**. We've done ourselves proud every year and made this one of the premier and most looked-forward-to hamfests in the area, and this year's event promises to be no exception! The updated flyer with the "final" main prizes is located in this issue, and is also now available on the web site. Word is that Sauders Electronics will be returning this year, a real credit to Carol KB3GMN as Cathy Sauder has cut back on her hamfest schedule; and that Eagle One, a vendor that's been to many other area hamfests, will be joining us for the first time as well this year. Word also is that WPA Section Manager Tim Duffy K3LR has scheduled time for us as well this year. Carol is busy taking reservations and putting the finishing touches on the plans and preparations, but she still needs your help, and the help of all **WASH** members, to spread the word around and make sure all of our vendors and guests have the best time possible!

Our **next VE Session** will take place at **WASHFest**, with the rest of the year to be scheduled shortly. Our available space is quite limited, so we will NOT be accepting walk-ins and WILL insist on pre-registration of all candidates. While we wish it could be otherwise, the room simply isn't there. (And renting the other hall is cost-prohibitive; we'd have to test well over 75 candidates just to cover the rental.) So if you, or someone you know, would like to test for a new or upgraded license at **WASHFest**, please have them pre-register as soon as possible!

The ARRL is helping the National Parks Service celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with this year's **National Parks On The Air** event. The NPOTA operations began on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and already have garnered a lot of activity. It looks like it's going to be a lot of fun for all involved! More information on how the event works and how the awards for it will be presented can be found at <https://npota.arrl.org>

### WASHNet NCS Schedule

01/04/2016	Bill W3WH	02/29/2016	Bill W3WH
01/11/2016	Bob AB3ED	03/07/2016	Bob AB3ED
01/18/2016	Digital Net	03/14/2016	Digital Net
01/25/2016	Carol KB3GMN	03/21/2016	Rick KB3IAC
02/01/2016	Dave N3DFK	03/28/2016	Bill W3WH
02/08/2016	Harold K3HCR	04/04/2016	Bob AB3ED
02/15/2016	Digital Net	04/11/2016	Carol KB3GMN
02/22/2016	Glen KE7FD	04/18/2016	Digital Net

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



## Minutes, December 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:15 hours. 18 members and 2 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 Bill W3WH, second by Fred KB3DCO, 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 **WASHFest** on February 28<sup>th</sup>; due to space limitations, there will be NO walk-ins this year. The rest of 2016 to be scheduled. Thanks to N3FB for making the arrangements.

Repeaters (N3FB): Repeating. Repeaters are still being worked on but things are steadily improving.

**WASHNet** (KE7FD): Appreciate everyone who has volunteered for NCS, some new ones are being added in 2016. Does Monday nights @ 8 PM still work for everyone? (Informal consensus of "yes" from members in attendance)

**N3SH.ORG** (N3NWR): Short report on status of the club website and some issues that have arisen with GoDaddy over their server migration. Discussion of upgrade issues & fees for the next few years. Show of hands over options for website renewal: 1 for 2 years, 2 for 3 years, 15 for 5 years. Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Glen KE7FD to renew the club website on GoDaddy for 5 years. Approved unanimously.

Reminder that if any club member needs added to GoogleGroups (the 'new' N3SH email reflector), let Sean know directly.

Contests (K3VX): 2016 2 Meter Simplex is coming up next month. Reminder that Jim WB4GCS is chairing the event this year, all logs will go to him.

Larry needs someone to step up and take over as co-chair for Field Day 2016, as he will be at a wedding that weekend and unavailable.

Public Service (N3RDV): No report.

**WASHFest 2016** (KB3GMN): Kathy Sauder definitely coming. EAGLE 1 Communications is coming. More tables reserved. K3LR will be there as WPA SM. Allen W8OP from WV will again be our card checker. Help will be needed & appreciated, Carol will have a sign-up sheet at the January meeting. Everything is coming along nicely.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KB3GMN): Thanks to everyone who voted for her in the election.

Old Business: Bill W3WH read a report from Rick KB3IAC on the 501(c)(3) status; they will be meeting with his attorney on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Still in need of a written Memorandum of Understanding with regards to the N3FB/R site, which will be handled at the same time.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

- K3VX: K1JT will be giving a talk at Pitt tomorrow, anyone who is going will to share parking costs with him?
- KB3GMN: Congratulations to Larry K3VX on his recent nuptials!
- W3LPL: Winter Field Day is coming up, WACOM is considering operating in it this year.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill W3WH, second by Sean N3NWR and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 19:55



## WASH Spotlight: Tweets



The Boss has been home for a few weeks recovering from surgery. As a result, amongst others, she missed Piratefest for the first time in 20 years.

Little Miss Field Day got a "get well" note from Pirates catcher Francisco Cervelli for the Boss. Because LMFD got this note at the "social media booth", she, the note, and #29 got "tweeted"! (She's still hearing from friends all over the, ah, Twitterverse!) And the Boss can't wait to be able to thank him for the note in person!

[I've warned you. Pictures, or next month, it's the dog!]

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2015 Jessie Lynn Notarius... and Twitter

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

<b>2016</b>	KB3ERQ	N1NCZ	WASH FL	WASH SC	<b>Silent Keys</b>
K3HCR	KB3GMN	N2QIV	KA3UPY/M	N3RNX	
KB3JHR	KB3GMP	N3DFK	W4ZE	WASH TN	
W3WH	KB3GMU	N3FB	WASH NE	K3OL	
WA3PYU	KB3GUZ	N3IDH	N0PEU	KE3XB	
WA3VSS	KB3IAC	N3KFD	WASH OR	N3YPB	
<b>2015</b>	KB3IVX	N3RDV	N0VLR	WASH TX	
AA3GM	KB3ORO	N3RHT	N0WVP	NB3C	
AB3NM	KB3PSB	N3SBF	KB3NVL	K3LGM	
AE3DL	KB3YCX	NU3Q	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	
K3LGM	KC3DOF	W3LE	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
K3SGT	KC3ELA	W3RWS	N8DPW	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
K3VX	KC4WTT	W3VFA		NP2JF	N3CZZ
KA3VXM	KE7FD	W3WN			N3FZ
KB3DCO	KI5ZT	WB4GCS			N3HKQ

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

Through December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

AB3KA  
K3EED  
K3LIE  
KA3NMG  
KB3ENX  
KB3FNM  
KB3FQT  
KB3JHQ  
N3CZZ  
N3FZ  
N3HKQ  
N3KEH  
N3OBD  
N3SKR  
N3SRC  
N3ZEL  
N3XFE  
W3ZLK  
WA3JPP

# 2016 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

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

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 16 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave PSK31	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org/html/groundwave_contest.htm">http://www.breezeshooters.org/html/groundwave_contest.htm</a>
January 24 <sup>th</sup> — 26 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 29 <sup>th</sup> — 31 <sup>st</sup>	CQ 160 Contest CW	<a href="http://www.cq160.com/">http://www.cq160.com/</a>
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org/html/groundwave_contest.htm">http://www.breezeshooters.org/html/groundwave_contest.htm</a>
February 20 <sup>th</sup> — 21 <sup>st</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 26 <sup>th</sup> — 28 <sup>th</sup>	CQ 160 Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cq160.com/">http://www.cq160.com/</a>
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	WASHFest 2016	CSVFD Memorial Hall, 3600 Library Rd, Castle Shannon
	WASH VE Exam @ WASHFest	
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	WASH Meeting & Pizza Night	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
March 5 <sup>th</sup> — 6 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 12 <sup>th</sup> — 13 <sup>th</sup>	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew">http://www.kkn.net/stew</a>
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave SSB	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org">http://www.breezeshooters.org</a>
March 26 <sup>th</sup> — 27 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WPX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cqwpw.com/">http://www.cqwpw.com/</a>
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Two Rivers ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.trarc.net/home">http://www.trarc.net/home</a>
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 20 <sup>th</sup> — 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dayton Hamvention 2016	<a href="http://hamvention.org/">http://hamvention.org/</a>
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	Big Butler Fairgrounds, 1127 New Castle Road (US 422), Prospect PA 16052
	WASH Picnic @ Breezeshooter's	



# *"Seen" at the December Meeting*

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2015 Ron Notarius W3WN





## Experience Counts!

Richard H. Braun KE7VXP courtesy of [eHam.net](http://eHam.net)

I'm a fairly new ham. Got licensed in 2008, crammed for the tests, lucked out in 2010 and got my Extra. Here is a lesson on how this newbie was nearly driven to insanity because he didn't have the knowledge that only years of experience can bring. For years my Elmer, Dan, repeatedly told me to get rid of the commercial aluminum antenna monster in my front yard and replace it with a random length dipole up in the trees fed with ladder line and tuned with an old Johnson Matchbox. Dan had been making QRP CW contacts worldwide with that rig. That's all good and well, but it took about four years of flea market hunting to find a reasonably priced Matchbox. Finally we found one about a year ago. Plus, the XYL told me to get the shack out of the living room and move it to the spare bedroom. Time to build an antenna! What could be simpler? Random lengths of wire to a tee insulator, ladder line to the shack, into the Matchbox, and then to the rig...

So I built an air launcher from scrap plastic pipe like I'd seen advertised in QST, built the antenna with 34 feet of wire on either side, soldered the ladder line to them, shot fishing line 55 feet over a tree, pulled the whole thing up, routed the line to the shack and got all excited to make contacts. No dice, wouldn't load, consistently 100-1 SWR. Call Dan. He looks the thing over and then tries it himself. Same thing, won't tune, won't take power. "You have an open somewhere" Dan says. "Take it down and check the continuity from the shack end of the ladder line to the end of each wire."

Down it comes, and it checks out fine. Huh? The mystery deepens. This is frustrating. So I figure, what the heck let's just rebuild the whole thing with 12 gauge stranded copper, lengthen the wires to 50 feet or so, carefully route the ladder line through standoffs for an electric fence, test everything for continuity, hook it up, and make DX contacts. After another day working in the rain, buying more wire, standoffs, and ladder line, then checking continuity back up it goes and into the shack I go, thinking nothing could be wrong now, time for contacts! No dice. 100-1 SWR on every band, won't tune, won't load.

At this point I am so frustrated I write to Dan and say "this hobby has worn out its welcome, I'm putting everything in storage, kicking the cat, and chopping down the trees. How could something so bonehead simple not work?" I can't describe how black my mood got. A wire that won't load? How can that be? Dan scratches his head and implores me, "before you do something completely stupid, let me bring my Matchbox over and try it". He does and it works so well that in 20 minutes he made six cross country CW contacts with 5 watts. All 599. So the problem is my Matchbox!

I'd taken the cover off the Matchbox before and it looked pristine. -- Still nice and shiny inside after all those years. No burns, no modifications, no solder drips, no cracked insulators, no loose screws or nuts, just plain perfect. What could be wrong? Out to the shed to examine this thing. Stick one probe of the Fluke ohmmeter into the center of the coax connector. Start poking around with the other probe. What? No continuity from the input to the link coil. Makes no sense, I can see the wire going to the coil, nothing wrong there. Hey, what's this relay doing in this tuner? I press the relay and voila, continuity to the link coil! Time to get a schematic of the Matchbox and get a real understanding of what's going on.

It turns out the default, i.e. unenergized, position of the relay is "receive" which takes the whole tuning mechanism out of the circuit. All the old timers know that when the Matchbox was designed transceivers were rare and folks worked with separate transmitters and receivers. The relay was energized by the transmitter and kept the outgoing signal from blowing up the receiver. I'd solved the problem. Stick a toothpick in the relay to permanently close it. Or use a cable tie for a high tech solution.

With a toothpick, the Matchbox works perfectly with my transceiver. DX contacts galore, great signal reports, blah blah blah. I am certain that no old timer would have put up and taken down, and rebuilt an antenna twice when it was obvious that all he needed is a toothpick.

Experience counts.

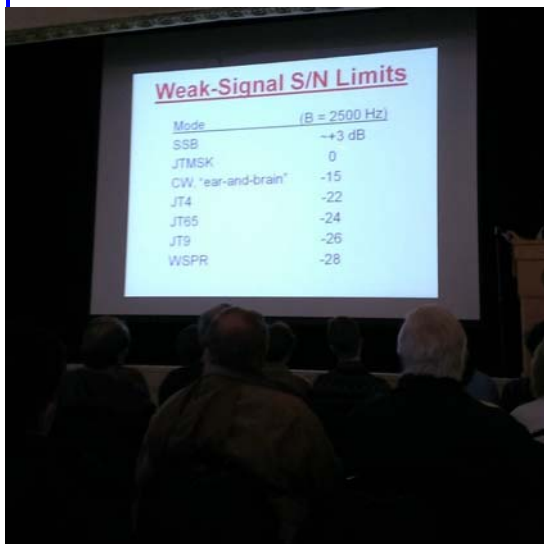


Nobel Prize winner Dr. Joe Taylor K1JT gave a lecture on "DXing with Weak Signals" at the University of Pittsburgh on December 4th, as part of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Pittsburgh Panther Amateur Radio Club W3YI.

Among the many Amateur Radio operators attending the lecture were Larry Comden K3VX (left with K1JT) and Gary Robbins KB3YCX.

K1JT brought along his Nobel Prize medal to display to those interested!

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2015, 2016 Gary Robbins KB3YCX



## The N3SH VHF Repeater Pre-Amp

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

### Actions:

Mount the preamp on brass with a terminal strip and filter capacitor for power. Power provided by adjustable "wall wart" set at 5 V. Fused at 1A. (Preamp can draw as much as 500 mA. After verifying operation, recalibrate NF meter with the actual cables and adapters in use.

### Observations:

Measured 24.8 db gain, 0.7 db Noise Figure.

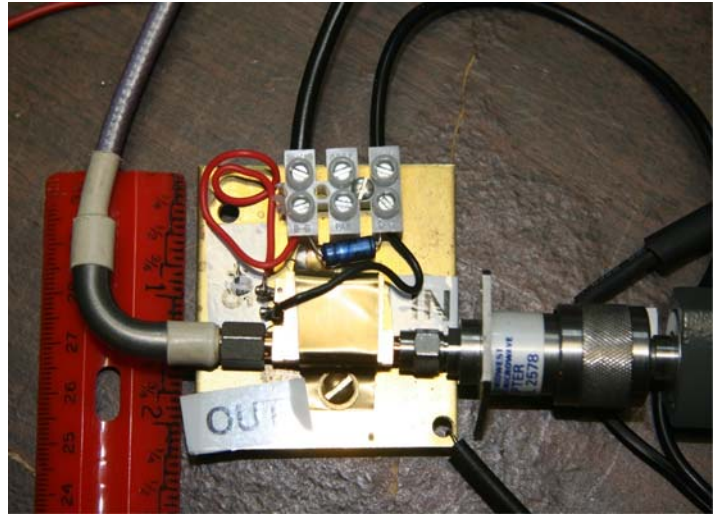
It's still small!

### Plan:

Good NF, but too much gain. Would like to just install, but we should proceed carefully. Recommend:

1. Measure receiver sensitivity as-is.
2. Attempt to adjust/improve; measure.
3. Install preamp and downstream filter.
4. Measure receiver system sensitivity and MDS.
5. Insert variable attenuator downstream of preamp and increase attenuation until MDS begins to deteriorate. This value is "excess" gain.
6. Install attenuator of ½-value on either side of filter.
7. Evaluate performance over time

*Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2015, 2016 Jim Sanford WB4GCS*



The last medium-wave (MW) AM transmitters in Germany closed down on December 31, as digital transmission modes have come into favor. The shutdown of the Deutschlandradio transmitters marks the end of German-language programming transmitted from Germany in that part of the spectrum.

On the same day medium-wave Radio France AM transmitters went dark. The transmitters shut down there are associated with France Info, France Blue RCFM, and France Blue Elsass. Radio France said listener numbers have become "marginal," and the affected services will shift to FM and Internet broadcast outlets.

MW in Europe is analogous to the North American AM broadcast band.

Ofcom, the UK telecommunications regulator, has revoked the [first batch](#) of Amateur Radio licenses that had not been "revalidated" by their holders. Ham licenses in the UK used to expire annually, but in 2006, Ofcom began issuing lifetime licenses, which remain in effect until the agency takes specific action to revoke them. Ofcom has canceled some Amateur Radio licenses in the past, when the licensee has specifically requested, but revocation is a different administrative process altogether. They [announced](#) earlier this fall that it would begin revoking the licenses of those who had not revalidated their ham tickets, as UK regulations require.

Ofcom's revocation procedure for the first group of revocations took about 7 weeks, from the initial announcement to the revocations on December 4<sup>th</sup>. A formal appeal process is in place, but Ofcom reported that no one has taken advantage of it so far.

Some estimates have suggested that the number of unvalidated Amateur Radio licenses might number in the tens of thousands, but the actual figure won't be known until Ofcom has completed its work on the project, which is said to be time consuming and labor intensive. It could be some time before the backlog is cleared.

To revoke a license, Ofcom must notify the licensee of the reasons for which it proposes to revoke the license, specify a period for the licensee holder to respond; decide whether to revoke the license; and notify the license holder of its decision. Ofcom [reported](#) that at the end of November, 83,951 Amateur Radio licenses were on the books.

I have a Radio Shack ("Archer") 6-port power strip; some of you may have seen it at Field Day. I really like it; it is in a robust metal case and has a long, heavy cord.

It has not worked for years, but I wouldn't trash it without at least looking in to the problem.

Today, keeping low and mellow, I decided to open it up and see if I could repair it; I assumed the circuit breaker was failed. Had to use a #1 square drive; they clearly don't want you opening these up.

My ohmmeter said the circuit breaker was good. Then I found the real problem:

**The "Hot" lead from the circuit breaker to the switch had fallen off the switch and was contacting the case!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Had I plugged this in, it could have been ugly or fatal. Fortunately, I tend to test "unknowns" on the bench variac, which is fused at 5 or 10 Amps.

**Recommendation:** If you have a power strip that is at all imperfect, *take it out of service* until repaired. And if it's a plastic one you can't repair, cut the cord and trash it.

I was able to repair mine by crimping the female spade connector so that was difficult to press back on the switch, and won't come off with any reasonable amount of force.

— Jim Sanford WB4GCS

Among the many electronics and technology estate dispositions I have handled over the last 20 years, I rescued a model of the mainframe computer that ran the screens in Apollo mission control from a house in Beechview about 5 years ago. It is a Univac U490.



The guy bought it at a Westinghouse surplus sale back in the 70's for \$25, and had to rip out a wall of his house to get it inside. The estate owner was about to dismantle it for scrap metal when I showed up! It cost almost \$6,000 for professional riggers to extract it from the house without wrecking the place and move it to its new home.

It is the last surviving Univac U490 on Earth and the best rescue I ever did. It is now on display at the System Source computer museum in Baltimore. See this link: <http://museum.ssysrc.com/artifact/300/>

— Don Merz N3RHT



# Announcing the Sixteenth Annual WASH 2Meter Contest!

This January will mark the Sixteenth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting!

Everyone who participated in it the last thirteen years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

**Please review this year's rules carefully.** After evaluating feedback from participants, **we made some changes and additions in the last few years** that we hope will really generate some interest! We also have a **new contest chair & mailing address** for 2016! There may be some additional "tweaking" of the rules between now and January, so keep an eye on this column in the next few newsletters, and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

**Date & Times:** Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 7 to 11 PM EST.  
(That's January 12<sup>th</sup> 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

## Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

**Band, Mode & Frequencies:** The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.505 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.450 to 147.580 MHz**. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB & AM**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan).
- **Digital (including RTTY)**: 144.51 to 144.55 MHz. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan) Multiple digital modes may be used, and participants are free to use any generally accepted Digital mode, but only ONE Digital QSO with a given station regardless of mode

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for SSB & AM QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for Digital QSO's around 144.51 MHz 45 minutes after the hour*

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

**Power Limit:** Maximum 100 watts output.

**Exchange** : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

**Example 1:** "N3ZCG from W8XK, please copy Number 3, 15347."

**Example 2:** "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801"

**Example 3:** "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137"

**Contacts** : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

**Disqualification:** Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels below 146.505 MHz.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, nets, & QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty.

**Scoring:** Each Contact: **Phone** (FM, SSB, AM): 1 point  
**CW**: 2 points  
**Digital** (any mode): 2 points

**Multipliers:** Locations (Number of different ZIP Codes)

**Power:** Stations running 10 watts output or less: 3  
Stations running over 10 up to 30 watts output: 2  
Stations running over 30 watts output: 1

**Final Score:** Total Points x Locations x Power

**After the Contest:** Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the **WASH** web site, [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org), no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Submit Log Sheets:** Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest  
c/o Jim Sanford WB4GCS  
10 Sugar Run Road  
Eighty Four, PA 15330

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to WASHFest 2016 on February 28<sup>th</sup>**

Logs submitted with an SASE will have their ticket mailed to them, otherwise, the tickets will be available at the **WASH** Club table

## Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

After the first year of the contest, we found that the limited number of frequencies suggested in the rules were insufficient for the activity level. In subsequent years, we permitted use of any recognized simplex frequency, as per the ARRL recommended guidelines published in the annual ARRL Repeater Directory and other sources, above 146.520 MHz.

You will note that many of these frequencies are listed as potential dual use, with a "local option" for them to be used for repeater inputs and outputs.

After discussions with Frank Bobro N3FB, Repeater Coordinator for the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council (WPRC), we have determined that the following simplex frequencies are recommended for use. Use of those that are "dual use" are not expected to cause issues for any known repeaters.

Remember that good amateur practice indicates that should a contest participant be notified that they are inadvertently causing interference to a coordinated repeater that is using a recognized simplex channel, they should immediately cease use of that frequency in favor of, and out of respect for, the existing repeater.

The following list of recommended frequencies are recognized as standard simplex channels and should not suffer from co-channel problems with any existing repeaters:

146.505 MHz	146.580 MHz	147.510 MHz
146.520 MHz (*)	147.450 MHz	147.525 MHz
146.535 MHz	147.465 MHz	147.540 MHz
146.550 MHz	147.480 MHz	147.555 MHz
146.565 MHz	147.495 MHz	147.570 MHz

Simplex channels below 146.505 MHz are not to be used, as many of these are in use in WPA as repeater input frequencies.

(\*) The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 MHz, **may** be used. However, many stations use 52 for casual conversation or as a calling frequency. If the frequency is in use or becomes used by non-participants, please permit them to use the frequency unimpeded.

To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.

Bottom line: Enjoy the contest, but do so responsibly.



## *Ten-Tec Purchased by Dishtronix* courtesy of John Henry KI4JPL and other sources

Rampant speculation during the later half of 2015 with regards to the status of Ten-Tec were put to rest on January 4th, following the release of information that Dishtronix of Bellefontaine, OH, would be purchasing the assets of the company and resuming production.

The email read, in part:

The following is from the new owner of TEN-TEC



As some of you may be aware, Dishtronix has purchased the assets (but not the liabilities) of Ten Tec from RKR Designs. .

I had desired to keep this under wraps until Ten Tec is reorganized, but there is too much speculation concerning the service department to continue without an announcement of some sort.

There is a myriad of things that must be accomplished before everything is formalized. Unfortunately these things must be done before we can continue with jobs that were sent in for repair to RKR. At this time I would ask people to be patient and please do not call or email me about your repair. When we get the phone numbers transferred successfully or new phone numbers we will post them. As we progress with the change, someone will contact you about your repair. When service resumes we will be contacting the repair customers.

As some of you may be aware I have been looking at all aspects of operation of the company and restructuring operations has been necessary. In reviewing the service department accounts, it is apparent that some customers use the service department to diagnose the radio and elect to not proceed with the repair. Unfortunately this open door policy costs the company one hour of billable time to receive, unpack, open, diagnose, provide an estimate and repack a radio for return to the customer.



Effective immediately, all radios including those sent in to RKR, will incur a 140.00 minimum charge to look at a radio, even if it is not repaired. Service time is 125 per hour with the average repair requiring from one to two hours. This means you can expect to pay at least 265.00 plus parts and return shipping for any repair. (Editor's note: It was later clarified that the first hour would be \$140, each additional hour would be \$125. So if the repair, including unpacking and evaluation, came in within the first hour, the cost for 'bench time' would be \$140. Service simply expects the average time for unpacking, diagnostics, and repair to be about 2 hours)

For customers who sent radios in to RKR which were not repaired, who object to these terms, we will return your unit to you at your expense.

A second problem in the service department is with the time technicians spend on the telephone that quite often ends up having nothing to do with the Ten Tec product but is some other station deficiency. The problem here is Ten Tec is not compensated for that time, yet Ten Tec pays wages to the technician. When the service department resumes operation, Ten Tec will charge the customer for any telephone call or email that consumes more than five minutes of technician time. That time will be billed in quarter hour increments at the prevailing service rate.

I am fully committed to bring Ten Tec back to a sustainable state. This will take some time. Please give us time to finalize these plans since there are so many business related issues to get through. We will definitely need to rely on you as customers to help continue the Ten Tec tradition of innovative product and cutting edge technology.

The complete email, include personal comments from John, can be found at [https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ten\\_tec\\_radio\\_net/conversations/messages](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ten_tec_radio_net/conversations/messages). It can also be found posted on other Amateur Radio forums, including eHam.net and QRZ.COM. The News forum on QRZ.COM includes a lively discussion that Dishtronix owner Steven Dishop N8WFF has participated in and is monitoring.

The email did not provide any further information regarding Alpha Amplifiers or RKR.

Dishtronix is a privately held company that has been in business since 1998, servicing smaller manufacturers who lack expertise in electronic design, assisting them in the design, development and manufacture of electronic controls and products. Since 2001, they have been in the Amateur market with their line of high power solid state amplifiers and accessories.

A [May 2015 press release](#) indicated that Dishtronix had acquired the assets of the Emtron brand of RF Power amplifiers from Emona Electronics of Sydney, Australia.

More information is available at <http://www.dishtronix.com>

Researchers at the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology are preparing to send an amateur radio transponder into a geosynchronous orbit in 2017.

"Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, a new ham band will be available for the Americas," said Robert McGwier, a research professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Hume Center's director of research. "It will allow rapid deployment to disaster areas and support long-haul communications for first responders."

This would be the first amateur or "ham" radio payload in a geosynchronous orbit, and would significantly enhance communications capabilities for amateur radio operators, in particular following natural disasters or other emergency situations. The Hume Center team met with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate in September to discuss the project.

There are more than 2 million amateur radio operators around the world, and the community has a long history of assisting with emergency communications when traditional communications networks collapse, because they typically rely on cell towers and the Internet. Ham radio signals require only compact, mobile equipment that can be easily transported to an emergency site.

"Hams show up at every disaster, no matter what," said McGwier, referring to amateur radio operators. After events like Hurricane Katrina and the Indian Ocean tsunami, "for days, the only way that people communicated out of those communities was amateur radio."

In fact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency signed an agreement in 2014 with the American Radio Relay League, also known as ARRL, that describes how the two organizations will work together to provide disaster relief, and the Federal Communications Commission has specific regulations authorizing the use of amateur radio in situations which threaten life or property.

The satellite itself will be operated by Millennium Space Systems on behalf of the United States Air Force; the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, also known as AMSAT, will operate the radio, which will be designed and built by Virginia Tech students—making this project a unique collaboration among the university, nonprofit organizations, private companies, and the federal government.

The Hume Center team is also engineering a ground terminal that emergency personnel could use to relay their own existing communications channels through the satellite. This setup could be deployed through the American Radio Relay League and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation as a key part of a robust national emergency response system, allowing trained operators to reliably mobilize to disaster areas in the first critical hours after a devastating event.

— Eleanor Nelsen <http://phys.org/news/2015-12-amateur-radio-geosynchronous-orbit-aid>



## Commemorative EME Transmission set from reburbished dish at "Project Diana" historical site

American Radio Relay League & Martin Flynn W2RWJ

Newington, CT, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 — Radio amateurs will attempt an Earth-Moon-Earth (EME, or "moonbounce") transmission on January 10, using the 60 foot diameter TLM-18 dish on the former "Project Diana" site, now part of the [InfoAge Science History Museum](#) in New Jersey. This month's event marks the 70th anniversary of Project Diana. It was on the InfoAge site, then a part of Fort Monmouth, that the US Army's Project Diana team on January 10, 1946, first received radio signals bounced from the moon.

During the anniversary event, the TLM-18 reactivation team, consisting of volunteers from the [InfoAge Science History Museum](#), the Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club ([OMARC](#)), and Princeton University will transmit on 23 centimeters from N2MO, the OMARC club station, adjacent to the dish that offers 35 dBi gain at 465 MHz. The former US Army tracking dish was used as a ground station for the TIROS I and II weather satellites and for Project Vanguard, which led to the launch of *Vanguard 1*, the second US satellite, in 1958. The dish was demilitarized in the 1970s.

Daniel Marlow, K2QM, an InfoAge board member who teaches physics at Princeton, plans to use the dish as a radio telescope to see the 21 centimeter radiation from the Milky Way. But he also wants to observe radio pulsars, and since that activity can be performed at 70 centimeters, the TLM-18 dish is being made available to the Amateur Radio community for EME at 432 MHz on a secondary basis. Project Diana occupied the building housing N2MO



TLM-18 Dish

## Amateur Radio Allocations in the UK are "Insufficient"

Radio Society of Great Britain <http://rsgb.org/>

The Radio Society of Great Britain is quoted in the *UK Spectrum Usage & Demand Second Report*, saying that it believes current Amateur Radio primary allocations are insufficient. The RSGB pointed out that there are no primary ham radio allocations between 400 MHz and 24 GHz in the UK, "threatening confidence, investment, and growth" in Amateur Radio. The UK Spectrum Policy Forum released the report on December 18. Launched in 2013, the forum is a sounding board on long-term UK spectrum issues for the government and UK telecoms regulator Ofcom.

"The problem is greatest for satellite transponders, EME and narrowband terrestrial systems," RSGB continued. "Additional spectrum is needed to relieve digital voice congestion, enable new technology experimentation, introduce and extend digital TV, introduce new data modes and higher speed data technologies and to continue to enable the UK's lead in small satellites."

RSGB said the Amateur Radio community "contributes to the UK's technology skills base, providing knowledge and education (at no cost)" and provides voluntary communication support during emergencies and disasters.



Temporary permission for radio amateurs in Spain to operate at 5 MHz ended in November, but World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 established a new 15 kHz Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz.

At the request of URE, Spain's IARU member society, the secretary for telecommunications and information in the Ministry of Industry, Energy, and Tourism [has authorized](#) access to the new 5351.5-5366.5 kHz band for the duration of 2016 at a maximum of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), up to 3 kHz maximum bandwidth, CW and SSB.

Amateur Radio use of the band would be on a secondary, non-interference basis.

— ARRL, Union Radioaficionados Espanoles <http://www.ure.es/>



The ARRL has again complained to the FCC to allege illegal marketing of electronic RF lighting ballasts, operating under Part 18 of the Commission's rules, on the part of two major retailers. Letters went out this week to the FCC Enforcement Bureau and its Office of Engineering and Technology claiming Part 18 marketing regulations violations by [Lowe's](#) and by [Walmart](#) stores. At issue is the sale of non-consumer RF lighting ballasts to consumers who, in several instances, were told by store personnel that it was okay to install these in a residential setting. In addition, non-consumer and residential-class ballasts are intermixed in store displays with inadequate signage to direct consumers to the correct choice. Both letters asked the FCC to investigate and commence enforcement proceedings with respect to the two stores' marketing and retail sale of RF lighting devices in the US.

"ARRL purports to show that the [retailer] is...marketing and selling to consumers (by retail sale) non-consumer Part 18 RF lighting devices which are *not* intended for residential deployment, to consumers who have specifically noted their intention to deploy the devices in residential applications," ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said in similar complaint letters to the Commission on December 28 and December 29 (attached below). Part 18 emissions limits for consumer devices are far lower than those allowed for non-consumer devices.

"ARRL has received numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of significant noise in the medium (MF) and high frequency (HF) bands between 1.8 MHz and 30 MHz from 'grow lights' and other Part 15 and part 18 RF lighting devices," Imlay continued. "These devices are easily capable of emitting RF noise sufficient to preclude Amateur Radio MF and HF communications (and, as well, AM broadcast station reception) throughout entire communities."

Supporting both complaints are extensive and detailed reports by ARRL Laboratory EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG. The reports recount incidents of actual purchases of Part 18 RF lighting devices intended for commercial use to consumers who made clear to store personnel that they intended to use the devices at home. Gruber's report includes multiple photographs that depict in-store displays of the products in question and showing signage that does not adequately explain which devices may be sold to whom.

The ARRL has asked that all non-consumer devices be removed from retail sale and marketing at the stores and to track and recall non-consumer devices already sold to consumers.

In his report, Gruber concluded that retailers should require purchasers of non-consumer Part 18 RF lighting devices to provide a valid contractor's number. He also advised that the stores improve display signage to make it clear that non-consumer Part 18 devices may not be used in residential settings.

Earlier this year, the ARRL sent similar complaint letters to the FCC regarding the marketing of Part 18 RF lighting devices by The Home Depot. The League also has complained about specific RF lighting "grow light" devices that it has alleged exceed Part 18 emission limits.



## VP8STI / VP8SGI Update

Paul Ewing N6PSE / Intrepid DX Group

We are pleased to report that the *R/V Braveheart* has arrived in Stanley, the Falkland Islands and is making preparations for the arrival of the **VP8STI/VP8SGI** team. The *Braveheart* is taking on 90,000 liters of fuel and enough provisions for their 36 day voyage with the Intrepid VP8 team.

At 59 degrees South, Southern Thule in the South Sandwich chain of islands is closer to the Antarctic Circle than either Heard Island (53 degrees) or Bouvet Island (54 degrees). The climate will be cold and harsh with strong winds. Current weather in Southern Thule is -2 degrees C with moderate winds. After camping in tents on Southern Thule for ten days, our team will voyage to South Georgia Island and set up camp for an additional ten days.



Our goals are to operate fast and efficiently and to provide as many all-time new contacts with these rare entities. We will make the extra effort to work the most remote and difficult regions.

All of our plans are going very well. We have raised 74% of the funds needed to complete our Dxpedition. We are very grateful for all Foundation, Club and Individual support.

We have updated our QSL page and OQRS will be live as soon as we complete each activation. We will make every effort to upload our logs to Clublog each day. We expect to have challenges in doing so as at 59 degrees South, Southern Thule Island is outside of the Inmarsat BGAN coverage footprint.

We are very excited to be activating the #3 and #8 most wanted DXCC entities on a combined trip. You can view all details of our Dxpedition at <http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8>

Upon our return to Stanley, the team will operate as **VP8IDX** for five days with an emphasis on 160 meters.

Please watch for updates and announcements in The Daily DX, DX-World, DX Coffee and DX News.

At 00:03 Z on 20 December 2015, **P5/3Z9DX** started a limited "presentation" activity on 15 meter SSB. Dom was able to operate through about 07:38 Z, making over 350 QSOs. He made additional QSOs starting at 08:00 Z on 21 December, although propagation was not favorable due to a magnetic storm; he operated on 15, 20, and 10 meters. When he went QRT for good, he made a total of 785 QSOs.

He reported to DX-World that "his antenna is on a metal fence post 2m above the ground among government high rise buildings. The lowest noise level on 15m is 59+10 and on 20m it's 59+30. He's surrounded by a lot of people as he operates (officials coming in and out). Dom points out this operation is only a presentation so it's possible a different QTH will be found for the real activity planned for early next year."

Dom from Pyongyang shortly before Christmas. All relevant authorities were welcoming and friendly during his stay. He informs us that the previously announced plans for a January or February operation from P5 have been modified. A new location and project will likely now happen at the end of summer 2016. This new location is noise free (something he did not have during his recent demonstration as shown [here](#))

All necessary documentation for his December presentation operation will be provided to the ARRL DXCC desk to make this short presentation valid.

During free time, Dom had the chance to visit several interesting places in Pyongyang. Look out for new pictures and videos to appear on his [webpage](#). — DX World

## DX News Briefs



F4EGX has been QRV sporadically as **FT4XU** from **Kerguelen**. He's been limited to 50 Watts to a dipole, on 20 Meter SSB only. F1ULQ recently confirmed that he will be going QRT on 15 January, when his research trip ends. He is unable to make skeds or QSY to other bands/modes due to the limitations of the location, so please, don't ask. QSL via F1ULQ – F1ULQ

**E51JNH** will be QRV Holiday Style, HF, during January. QSL via VK3SN – VK3SN

**6W/WA3DX** will be QRV through 12 January from multiple locations, as time permits. Pictures of his operating can be found on his QRZ.COM page. QSL via WA3DX – N2KPC

**6W/EA1HF1** is QRV through March, all HF bands focusing on SSB and digital modes. QSL via EA1HF1 – DX World

**5Z4/WF3U** is currently QRV on all HF bands through 29 February. QSL via WF3U – WF3U

**V25GB** will be QRV from NA-100, 6 – 14 January, 40 – 6 meter SSB only. QSL via GW4DVB – GW4DVB

**H44MS** will be QRV 19 January – 14 April, 80 -6 (possibly 160), SSB only. QSL via DL2GAC – DL2GAC

**V31JZ/p** will be QRV from NA-180 4 – 11 February, 160 – 10, primarily CW. No online logs. QSL via NN7A – NN7A

**V63DX** will be QRV from OC-010 19 – 24 February, 160 – 10. QSL via JA7HMZ – JA7HMZ

**FS/F8AAN** will be QRV from NA-105 10 – 26 February, 40 – 10, CW only. QSL via F8AAN – F8AAN

**5JØP** will be QRV from San Andres (HKØ/A) 6 to 21 March. More information at <http://www.5j0p.com/en/home/> QSL via SP6IXF, but they would prefer ClubLog or LotW. – Team 5JØP

**3W2BR** will be QRV from Con Son Island AS-130 10 – 26 March, 10 – 40 meters, SSB & RTTY (possibly some PSK31), holiday style. More info at <https://www.qrz.com/lookup/3w2br>. QSL via DK2BR --- DK2BR

**FT4JA** has confirmed their dates as 29 March – 11 April, which includes the arrival & departure unloading & loading. The plan on 6 HF stations plus a dedicated 6 meter station. More detailed information at <http://www.juandenovadx.com/en/> -- Team FT4JA

**VK9NU** will be QRV 23 April – 2 May, 80 – 10, holiday style. QSL via VK4ADC – VK4ADC

**A91HI** will be QRV from Hawar Island AS-202 28 April – 1 May. More information to be released – DX World

## QSL Routes

3B8/DJ7RJ via DJ7RJ – JA1HGY	KL7NWR via KL2HD – W3AWU
3W4VX via JF1OCQ – JA1HGY	LX9YL via LX2A – JA1HGY
4U7ØUN via HB9BOU – K3BEQ	PJ6/OH1VR via OH1VR – JA1HGY
6Y9X via KQ1F – JA1HGY	PJ7ELY via JA1ELY – JA1HGY
A35JP via JAØRQV – A35JP	PJ7K via JA1ELY – JA1HGY
CR6K via CT1ILT – CR6K	PX8K via PY8WW – W3AWU
CT9/DJ8OG via DJ8OG – JA1HGY	S79OWZ via RA3R – RA3R
CU2KG via OH2BH – JA1HGY	T32DX via KH6OO – JA1HGY
E44QX via DF8DX – DF8DX	T46BC via IZ1GDB – JA1HGY
E51DWC via OK1DWC – E51DWC	T6DD via 4O4A – K9MM
E51MQT via N7QT – N7QT	TM6M via F4DXW – TM6M
E51XGI via JA1XGI – JA1HGY	TX3T via RZ3EC – TX7M
FM5FJ via KU9C – FM5FJ	TX7M via RZ3EC – TX7M
HC1PF via IV3PRK – JA1HGY	VP2ELY via JA1ELY – JA1HGY
HI3A via W2CCW – HI3A	YN2GA via W5GAI – YN2GA
HZ1FI via DL2RMC – JA1HGY	Z21MG via OK6DJ – OK6DJ
J6/K9AW via K9AW – JA1HGY	Z6ØA via OH2BH – JA1HGY

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





## WASH Classifieds

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

### HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

The Cingolani Building

300 North McKean Street, Butler PA 16001

Phone: 724-283-0653

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

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The FCC Enforcement Bureau has entered into a consent decree with a Florida radio amateur to resolve an investigation into whether the licensee violated Sections 97.113(b) and 97.119(a) of the FCC rules by transmitting one-way communications and failing to identify. As part of the deal, Thomas J. Warren K3TW, of Lecanto, Florida, will pay a monetary penalty. The FCC issued an **Order** incorporating the *Consent Decree* on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the case, which dates back to June 2015.



"In response to complaints that an unidentified station was transmitting on an Amateur Radio frequency at 14 MHz, FCC agents determined that the transmissions were coming from Mr Warren's residence," the FCC said in its December 9 *Order*. "To settle this matter, Mr Warren

admits that he failed to transmit his assigned call sign, violated the Commission's rules, will report any noncompliance with rules governing the Amateur Radio Service, and will pay a \$3500 civil penalty."

The *Consent Decree* provided a few more details of the case. The FCC recounted that, after tracking down the unidentified transmissions to Warren's residence, Warren conceded that he had not identified at least some transmissions that he'd made that day. "The agents issued an on-scene written warning to Mr Warren regarding the violations," the FCC said in the *Consent Decree*. "In his written response to the warning, Mr Warren acknowledged that he may have failed to transmit his station identification as required on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015."

According to the *Consent Decree*, Warren's transmissions "related to an ongoing dispute with another Amateur Radio operator, whose intentional interference had allegedly disrupted communications on the American Foreign Service Net that operates weekly on 14.316 MHz."

The FCC said the *Consent Decree* terminates its investigation, and that it will not use facts established during the investigation and through the effective date of the *Consent Decree* to institute any new proceeding or take further action against Warren regarding the matters that were the subject of the investigation.



Newington, CT, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 — The FCC Enforcement Bureau has proposed fining William F. Crowell, W6WBJ (ex-N6AYJ), of Diamond Springs, California, \$25,000 for intentionally interfering with other Amateur Radio operators and transmitting prohibited communications, including music. FCC San Francisco District Director David K. Hartshorn released a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)* on December 18<sup>th</sup>, detailing the allegations. An Advanced class licensee, Crowell is no stranger to the Enforcement Bureau, which had warned him as far back as 2000 about intentional interference. In 2008 the FCC designated his current license renewal application for **hearing**, alleging that he had caused intentional interference, interrupted others' communications, transmitted music, and made one-way transmissions, including some containing "indecent language," the FCC said. His license, which expired in 2007, has not been renewed, but Crowell may continue to operate while his application is pending. Prompting the December 18<sup>th</sup> NAL were complaints earlier this year by members of the Western Amateur Radio Friendship Association (WARFA), which conducts nets three times a week on 75 meters.

"Deliberate interference undermines the utility of the Amateur Radio Service by preventing communications among licensed users that comply with the Commission's rules," the FCC said in its NAL. "Mr Crowell's deliberate interference to other users, using voice, noises, and music, directly contravenes the Amateur Radio service's fundamental purpose as a voluntary noncommercial communications service..."

The Enforcement Bureau recounted that its agents and the High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) Center monitored Crowell's transmissions during the WARFA Net on 3908 kHz on August 25<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>. As the agents and the HFDF Center listened, Crowell "repeatedly interrupted other amateurs using noises, recordings, and music, in addition to talking over amateurs affiliated with the WARFA Net, so as not to allow them to transmit on the frequency," the FCC said in its NAL. "His transmissions and recordings included racial, ethnic, and sexual slurs and epithets." According to the NAL, the interference continued until the net shut down.

During an inspection of his station, Crowell acknowledged to FCC agents that he operates on 3908 kHz among other frequencies on most nights, and that he was transmitting on the evening of August 27<sup>th</sup>. The agents warned Crowell that his transmissions violated the Communications Act and FCC rules. Crowell asserted that playing recordings was not against the rules and, the FCC reported, "that he would continue to operate his amateur station as he had been doing." The FCC said on August 30, the HFDF Center again monitored Crowell "using his amateur station to engage in the same types of intentional interfering transmissions during the meeting time for the WARFA Net."

Crowell was given 30 days from the release of the NAL to pay the forfeiture or to file in writing seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed penalty.

Isidro Gabino "Gabi" San Martin Hernandez EB1BT, of Leon, Spain, died on December 11<sup>th</sup> as the result of a 9 hour shootout in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was 48 and the father of four.

San Martin was part of a police contingent guarding the Spanish Embassy in Kabul when a car bomb, believed set by the Taliban, exploded at the Embassy Guest House gate. The bombers then entered the compound, and a gun battle erupted. At least seven members of the diplomatic staff were killed, including San Martin and another police officer who died in the residential block of the embassy.

*Europa Press* reported that San Martin, who volunteered to serve at the embassy in Kabul, was stationed at the Police Intervention Unit of Oviedo, although on Friday he was working as part of the embassy security team. The online *20 Minutos* **reported** that San Martin left a safe location to look for one of his colleagues and ran into gunfire.

## Silent Keys



Susan Robishaw KB3JHQ, 63, McMurray PA, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
Robert W. Jordan NY3I, 91, Washington PA, December 12<sup>th</sup>

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**



# WASHfest 2016

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY FIRST** big year!

Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Breakfast &  
Lunch will  
be available!

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)  
Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall  
3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA  
Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL



**(800) 545-8881**

**DXCC Card Checking Available!**

Thanks Allen Carpenter W8OP



*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest  
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES  
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## MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to Play to WIN!



- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Yaesu FT-991 100 W HF/6M Transceiver
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Yaesu FT-2900R 75 W 2M FM Transceiver
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: West Mountain Radio ClearSpeech Speaker

**Additional Hourly Door Prizes! Special Black Box Prize (Separate Drawing)!**

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

**All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes**

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 [n3sbf@comcast.net](mailto:n3sbf@comcast.net)

E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance six years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITH Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Or More** Tables w/o: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS  
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:  
**WASHfest 2016**  
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN  
4246 Seton Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!





# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

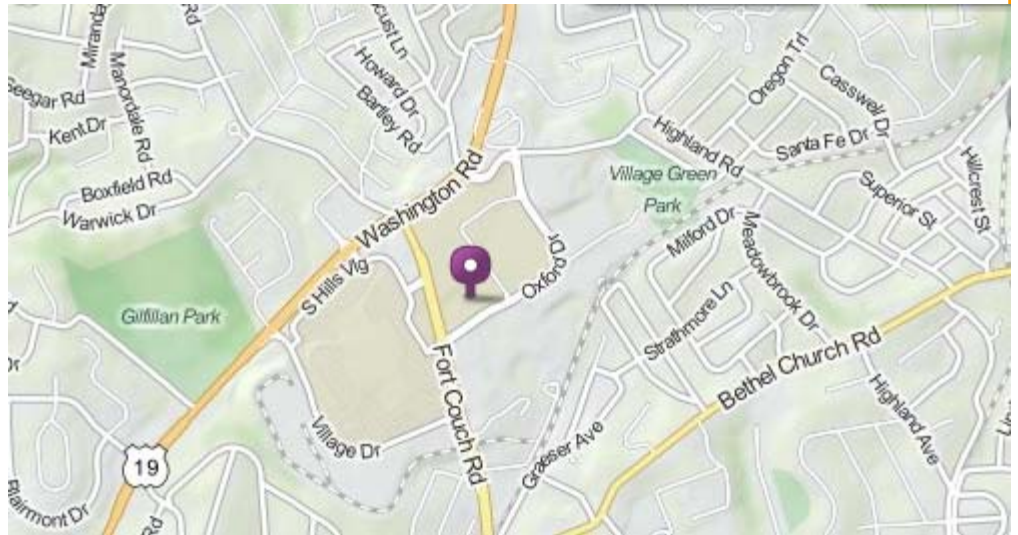
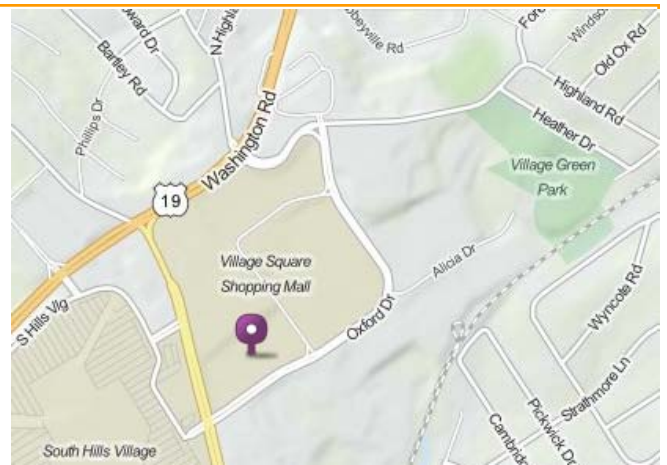
# 2015 WASH Meeting

## 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

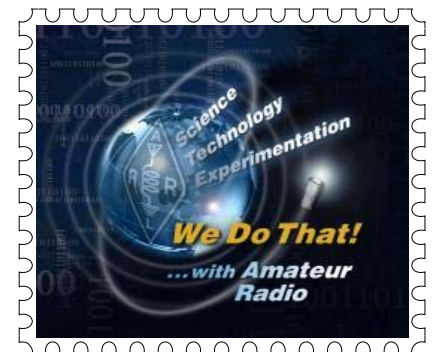


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NP2SH/B

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Now... you ARE  
planning to be at  
WASHFest 2016,  
Aren't you?

