



# WASHRAG<sup>TM</sup>



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 05  
MAY 2016

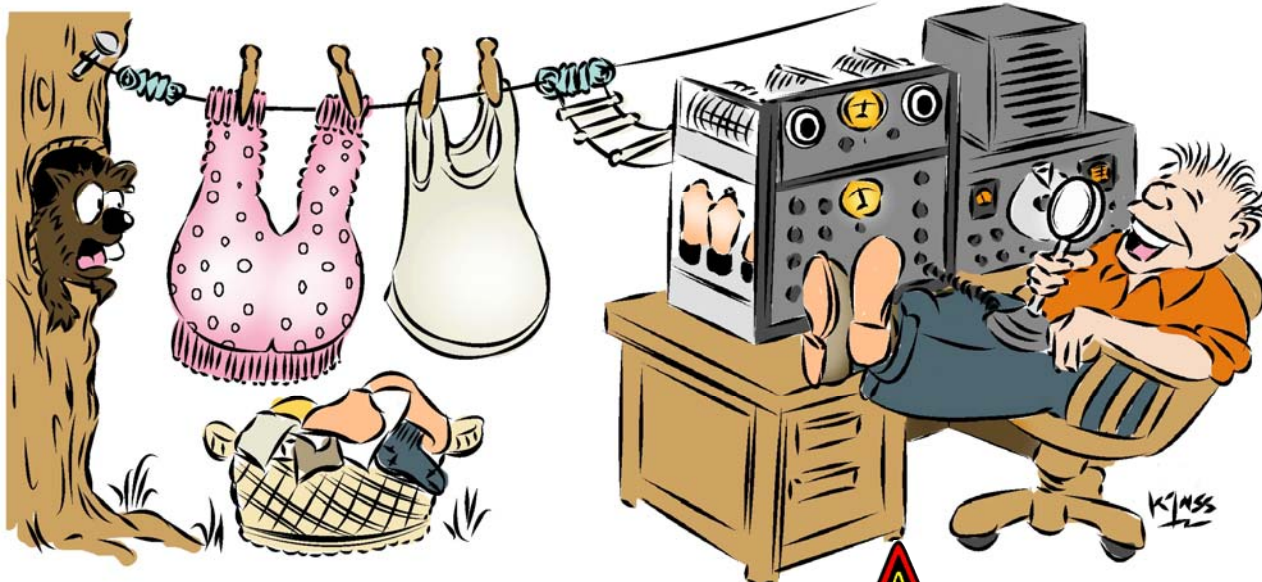
Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

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





# WASHRAG™



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 05

MAY 2016

**Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, May 5<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 Dayton Hamfention, Breezeshooter's Hamfest, Field Day2016, 501(c)(3) progress, updating the bylaws, other club plans for 2016, and more. See you there!

*Cover Photos:* Scenes from the 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest in Boston, PA on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN

## WASH 2016 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Carol Danko KB3GMN
VP / Secretary	Ben Williams KB3ERQ
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3BDV

### 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
<b>WASH</b> FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
<b>WASHFest</b> 2016 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
<b>WASH</b> 2M Contest Chair	Jim Sanford WB4GCS
Field Day 2016 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

### 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)**

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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 July 21<sup>st</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**, 7:00 PM, at the **WPXI Community Room**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

#### Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins welcome!

But if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: [w3wn@n3sh.org](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 (tentative): October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Carol's Comments



Finally Spring has arrived! I certainly wish those going to Dayton will have good weather and a great time. And bring some goodies home with them.

There are many items to be discussed at our May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. BreezeShooters Hamfest (June 5<sup>th</sup>) for one. We need to discuss the picnic and who is attending and what they can bring. We will also discuss Field Day the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June. It will be at Babcock Grove In South Park. Food will also be discussed.

Rich and I attended Two Rivers Hamfest. It was very nice to chat with hams that we don't see to often. And no we did not win anything.

I would like to wish all the Lady's a very Happy Mother's Day on May 8<sup>th</sup>. And for those who still have their MOMS with them, enjoy every moment you can. See you at the meeting.

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

Three student built CubeSats, including the first to carry a D-STAR payload into space, are now successfully in orbit following an April 25<sup>th</sup> launch from Guiana.

Signals from OUFTI-1 and AAUSAT4 have been received by multiple ground stations. e-st@r transmitted an initially weak signal received by at least one radio amateur in Germany. More info on the [ESA web site](http://ESAweb.site).

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> just seemed to sneak up on us. Despite that, a few intrepid souls managed to find their way to form up as this month's collection **the WASH Breakfast Gang** at **Suzie B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19 in Canonsburg. In attendance this time around were W3WH, N3FB, KB3GMU, N3IDH, N3BPP, K3SGT & Barb, KB3YCX and W3WN. Table topics of the morning included Pirates success, EP2A QSL & ClubLog, engineering meetings for WPXI, heard from Dayton?, living on P B & J, a second ham now on Mt. Athos, "everything is 'Don't Ask Don't Tell', bucket trucks and tower work free towers, "my furry grandson", whatever happened to *the Beach House*? (it's still there, just without us), under-dressed waitresses and breakfast at Hooters, 501 (c)(3) status, covering the Marathon, a sushi place at PNC Park... and as we come full circle, that wasn't even half of it.

Don't forget that our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, May 28<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?

Hard to believe that barely a month away will be **the BreezeShooter's Hamfest** at it's new location, the Big Butler Fairgrounds on US 422 in Prospect, PA. The club (courtesy of Ron W3WN's 50/50 winnings at the 2 Rivers Hamfest, as arranged by Carol KB3GMN) has reserved and paid for 3 flea market spaces together... we just don't know exactly where yet.

So what this means is... first off, the annual **WASH Club Picnic at BreezeShooter's** is ON. Contact Ron W3WN or Carol KB3GMN if you're coming and what you can bring, same as usual. Second, if you only have a few items you'd like to sell, but not enough to justify your own flea market spot, you are welcome to use the club area. (But consider bringing a small table or other way to display your stuff, we didn't always have enough space last year). No charge, it's covered. Third, if you do need your own spot, consider setting up with or very close to the club area. That let's us all keep an eye on each other's stuff, when it becomes necessary to, ah, step away for a moment; and makes it a little easier on everyone to participate in the picnic.

Related to the **N3SH Field Day** discussion in the minutes, Jim WB4GCS has since indicated that he will be unable to provide or be involved the satellite station for Field Day this year, due to scheduling limitations. While we always hate to disappoint anyone, the circumstances are such that it just isn't working out this year.

Speaking of which, we do hope to have some of our club members participate in a **secondary Field Day station**, K3SCH at St. Clair Hospital. Since this will be a permanent station, it would be a 1F class station, and due to space limitations, only 1 or 2 operators would be able to be present at any one time. This would be part of our group commitment to help provide SCH with emergency communications, by letting us demonstrate and test the station under crowded band conditions. Of course, this is also contingent on the station being set up and operational by Field Day — not a criticism, mind you, it's just that sometimes the process to bid and acquire equipment can be a lot longer that we'd like. In any event, if you are interested in spending an hour or two of Field Day at K3SCH, please let Rick KB3IAC know so that he can get you on the list and get you any information you'll need.

Going to Dayton? The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting is **hosting a reception** for amateur radio operators at the former VOA Bethany Relay Station site, on May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 9 PM. The WC8VOA club station will also be open to operators during the reception. The museum is located south of Dayton off of I-75, 1 mile east of the Tylersville Road exit.

### WASHNet NCS Schedule

05/02/1016	Glen KE7FD	<b>06/27/2016</b>	Bob AB3ED
05/09/2016	Harold K3HCR	07/04/2016	Carol KB3GMN
05/16/2016	Digital Net	07/11/2017	Chuck KC3ELA
<b>05/23/2016</b>	Larry K3VX	07/18/2016	Digital Net
05/30/2016	Mike WA3PYU	<b>07/25/2016</b>	Dave N3DFK
06/06/2016	Rick KB3IAC	08/01/2016	Glen KE7FD
06/13/2016	Bill W3WH	08/08/2016	Harold K3HCR
06/20/2016	Digital Net	08/15/2016	Digital Net

Indicates Swap Net After the Regular Net

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



## Minutes, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

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

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:07 hours. 20 members and one guest 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 Larry K3VX, passed unanimously.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read & accepted. We have a \$300 bill for the club's liability insurance, due May 1<sup>st</sup>,

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): Next test session will be April 14<sup>th</sup> at WPXI, future dates are in the newsletter. Thanks again to WPXI for the use of their community room for testing this year, & to N3FB for making the arrangements.

Repeaters (N3FB): A firmware upgrade needed on the 443.650 repeater, time out mode is acting up. Net message on 146.955 being stubborn. Need to build out the hardware for the 955/650 link. **WASHNet** (KE7FD): Reminder that we will now have a monthly swap net after the regularly scheduled weekly net, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

**WASHNet** (KE7FD): Glen has to step down as Net Manager. He appreciates all of the NCS Volunteers, Bob for the Swapnet, and to all the help he's had over the years. Chuck KC3ELA has agreed to assume the duties of Net Manager (applause)

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): Please send content for the website to Sean!

Contests (K3VX): Upcoming events listed in the newsletter.

Field Day (KB3IAC/W3WH):

- Rick discussed the options for 2016 FD shirts, and what they might cost.
- Short discussion on previously discussed 1A FD station at St Clair Hospital. Email to be sent out to solicit volunteers. Vernard should be putting out bids for the SCH HF / VHF station in the next week or so.
- Bill reminded everyone that N3SH will be in 3A from Babcock Grove in South Park (a new pavilion for us). There will be a CW, SSB, Digital, and GOTA station. We are not planning on a Satellite station at this point.
- Some interest in a 6 meter station. The club should have a beam (W3SRL donation). Further discussion on the Tower Trailer, hex beam, and wire antennas
- Rigs will be needed.
- We need someone to handle the food issues. Rick would like some help. Carol will handle lunch on Saturday. Rick will do either dinner Saturday or breakfast Sunday.
- CW ops will be needed since K3VX will not be available this year.
- Discussion on solar power.
- Volunteer needed for publicity. AB3ED thinking of a Youtube video for post-FD — he will handle this.

Public Service (N3RDV): Jeff N3NHS gave a short talk on the upcoming Pittsburgh Marathon and the need for operators. He has 50+ ops signed up, but is still short several. Cards for volunteers were passed around.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KB3GMN):

- 2 Rivers ARC hamfest April 24<sup>th</sup>. Carol reserved a table.
- Breezeshooter's Hamfest June 6th. Are we having a picnic? (Yes). BS'ers need help for Saturday setup & Sunday teardown.
- Are we doing an NPOTA op? 4/5 people interested, 3/4 locations being considered.
- **WASHfest 2017** will not be as CSVFD, as Memorial Hall is not being rented due to upcoming renovations. Larry has reserved the Economics Building in South Park. We need to rent ~ 50 tables.

Old Business: Several housekeeping measures to cover checks to be issued:

- Motion by Glen KE7FD, second by Harold K3HCR to reimburse Larry K3VX for his \$600 cash deposit. Passed unanimously.
- Motion by Bob KC3DOF, second by Chuck KC3ELA, to reimburse Larry K3VX \$90 for his Field Day site deposit. Passed unanimously.
- Rick KB3IAC needs \$400 to cover the 501(c)(3) filing fee. Motion by Harold K3HCR, second by Bill W3WH, to pay the filing fee. Passed unanimously.
- Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Larry K3VX, to pay the \$300 insurance bill. Passed unanimously.
- In July 2015, the club agreed to pay 2/3 of the cost of the 443.650 repeater building. Motion by Harold K3HCR, second

## WASH Spotlight: Gene & Rich

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright  
2016 Ron Notarius W3WN



Gene KB3JHR & Rich N3SBF talking prior to the April meeting.

( Hey, it was either this or the dog... )

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

AB3ED	KC3DOF	W3WH	WASH FL	WASH SC	<b>Silent Keys</b>
AA3GM	KC3ELA	W3WN	KA3UPY/M	N3RNX	
AB3NM	KC4WTT	W4CKR	W4ZE	WASH TN	
AE3DL	KE7FD	WA3PYU	WASH NE	K3OL	
K3HCR	KI5ZT	WA3VSS	NØPEU	KE3XB	
K3SGT	N1NCZ	WB4GCS	WASH OR	N3YPB	
K3VX	N3DFK		NØVLR	WASH TX	
KA3VXM	N3FB		NØWPV	NB3C	
KB3DCO	N3IDH		KB3NVL	K3LGM	
KB3GMN	N3KFD		KB3NVM	KB3IJX	
KB3GMU	N3RDV		WASH OH	Jane Wagner	
KB3IAC	N3RHT		N8DPW	WASH VI	
KB3IVX	N3SBF			NP2JF	
KB3JHR	NU3Q				
KB3ORO	W3VFA				

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

Continued  
on Page  
16

Through April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016  
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*

May 5 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	SBK 24 <sup>th</sup> Annual Race for the Cure	<a href="#">Schenley Park</a>
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	66 <sup>th</sup> Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test	<a href="http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements">http://www.usarmymars.org/home/ announcements</a>
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	
June 25 <sup>th</sup> — 26 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Field Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	North Hills ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.nharc.org">http://www.nharc.org</a>
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	WASH VEC Exam	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Somerset County ARC Hamfest	<a href="http://www.k3smt.org">http://www.k3smt.org</a>
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Skyview RS Hamfest	<a href="http://www.skyviewradio.net">http://www.skyviewradio.net</a>
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Uniontown ARC Gabfest	<a href="http://www.w3pie.org">http://www.w3pie.org</a>
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Butler Co ARA Swapfest	<a href="http://www.w3udx.org">http://www.w3udx.org</a>
October 1 <sup>st</sup> — 2 <sup>nd</sup>	51 <sup>st</sup> California QSO Party	<a href="http://www.cqp.org/">http://www.cqp.org/</a>
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 8 <sup>th</sup> — 9 <sup>th</sup>	59 <sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania QSO Party	<a href="http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html">http://www.nittany-arc.net/PAQSO.html</a>
October 14 <sup>th</sup> — 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jamboree On The Air	<a href="http://jotajoti.info/">http://jotajoti.info/</a>
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	WASH VEC Exam	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	WACOM Hamfest	<a href="http://www.wacomarc.org">http://www.wacomarc.org</a>



## *"Seen" at the March Meeting*

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN





## DX'ing This Past Winter

Bill Hill W3WH

During the last half of 2015 I invested a lot of time and some money in anticipation of DXing on the low bands this past winter. I had a lot of successes and also some failures and hope to improve upon them this year. The season started out with a bang when I got lucky one evening and saw an email from Bernie McClenny who publishes the Daily DX and the Weekly DX. He said that Monk Apollo SV2ASP/A was scheduled to be on 40 CW that evening at 7010 MHz. Sure enough I tuned up there and he was there working stations one after another. I called him but didn't hear him come back to me so I changed my transmit frequency because he was working split. To my horror I then heard him calling me but I didn't know my exact transmitting frequency anymore. I was crushed because I have been hoping to work Monk Apollo for at least the last 20 years. He is the only ham on Mount Athos in Greece. If you want to claim credit for Mount Athos you must work Monk Apollo. Well I thought I was defeated so I left the radio for about 15 minutes and then came back and he was still working stations. I tried again and this time I was successful. About Three Weeks Later I Received a QS L Card from him. What a nice early Christmas gift.

In the last couple of years I've become very interested in working DX on 160 m. There are a couple challenges to being successful on 160 m when you live in suburbia as I do. On the transmit side a 160 m dipole needs to be 260 feet long and needs to be very high to be effective. Most people including me are unable to do this. Probably the majority of people in my situation use an inverted L antenna which is a quarter wave bent vertical. I used one for a couple of years with some success but now I have a 43 foot vertical with two top load wires making the antenna a T top. Along with lots of radials underneath it it works pretty well. Late in the DX season I was able to work Hawaii using five Watts on 160 m. Of course that's only half the problem and the bigger problem for me is hearing the DX. Toward this end I have tried many different receive only antennas. Receive only antennas for 160 m are really intended to cut down on the noise which is almost always present on 160 m. I have tried many variations including a DX engineering receive dipole, a K9AY loop, a small rotatable loop, and a DX engineering foursquare system and eight KD 9SV Beverage on ground arrangement. To date none of these have been successful for me but I'll keep on trying and I think eventually I will prevail.

I realized that the Lowband DX season was going to be a real challenge for me during the ARRL 160 m contest. I could work anybody in the lower 48 states easily and some relatively short distance DX such as Bermuda Venezuela Hawaii and the like but I really couldn't hear most Europeans or stations even further from Pennsylvania. After this event in early December there wasn't really a whole lot going on in terms of opportunities for new countries on the bands until after New Year's.

Even though 160 m has been a disappointment this year it means that the challenge remains and it gives me a goal to work towards for the next DXing season on the low bands. However early this year until just now there have been quite a few opportunities to work DXpeditions representing countries I still need on my DX CC list. On January 18 I was able to work South Sandwich Island which eluded me since 1992. I missed two DXpeditions to this isolated island almost as far south as Antarctica. I was able to work the same group when they moved to South Georgia Island which although it wasn't a new one for me is certainly very rare. Then on 26 January I added Palmyra and Jarvis Islands by working K5P an all-time new one.

Nothing much happened in February but in early March I successfully worked San Andreas and Providencia on 160 m for new country. Shortly after that I worked 3C7 A which is Equatorial Guinea and more recently FT4JA which is Juan de Nova Europa both of which are also new ones. Maybe the biggest thrill of the season occurred the other evening when I worked VK0EK on Heard Island on 80 m. Heard Island was last on the air in 1997 and I was lucky enough to work them at that time but not on 80 m. Heard Island is I understand the closest landmass to our antipode here in southwestern Pennsylvania. My logging program says it's a little over 10,000 miles from here but perhaps it's actually further I don't know.

What was the point of telling you all these things? Well it's merely to point out that even after 60 years in the hobby there are lots of things that can maintain and maybe even increase your interest. I look forward to trying to work the few remaining countries that are still on the DXCC list. I've reached 330 and I believe there are currently 339 countries on the list so there are still opportunities for me not to mention I only have 81 countries on 160 m so I have loads of room for future successes there. This is a great hobby. Make sure you take full advantage of it.



W3WH Shack as of late March 2016



We had one candidate for our VEC Test Session on April 14<sup>th</sup>. He successfully passed his Technician examination, and missed General by only a handful of answers (not bad at all for not studying the material!)

Congratulations to KC3GZU Allyn Rotthoff of Pleasant Hills!

Thanks also to our VE's for the test session: Frank N3FB, Rich N3SBF, and on standby if needed, Glen KE7FD.

Thanks also to WPXI for once again permitting us to use their Community Room for the purposes of the examination.

Our next VEC Test Session will be on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

— 73, Ron W3WN, ARRL VEC Liaison



## Operators Needed: Race for the Cure

Amateur Radio Operators are needed to help provide communications for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Operators are needed for fixed points along the course, and to shadow the race officials.

The race begins at 6:30 AM, and will take place at Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park.

If you are interested in volunteering for this worth cause, please contact Bob Mente NU3Q at (412) 279-9016, or [nu3q@nu3q.us](mailto:nu3q@nu3q.us)



## *Seen" at the 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest*

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN





## *P5DX Cancelled: What Went Wrong?*

For several years now, Paul Ewing N6PSE has been diligently working on the “P5 Project,” putting together a DXpedition to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, aka North Korea. Much of his progress, or at least where his latest contacts and information stood, have been publicly announced and discussed on his Wordpress blog.

Considering the general and sometimes volatile political situation with that country, many astute DX’ers had their doubts (public or private) about whether or not Paul’s efforts would ever come to fruition.

In mid-April, though, rumors began to circulate throughout the DX community that Paul’s efforts may have finally paid off. Stories began to surface on the various news sites, like [DX World.net](#), and in the blogs of many DX’ers. (At deadline, we learned that some of these posts have been removed from the net and may no longer be available).

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, N6PSE [announced on his blog](#) that the entire DXpedition has been cancelled. Excerpted from his original post:

Throughout several years of ongoing negotiations, the North Koreans have told us that they have never before given permission for an amateur radio activity within the DPRK. Of course we don’t know if this is true or not as others have gone before us and have been approved for DXCC, but this is what we were told. We had hoped to be the first large DXpedition with clear and unambiguous proof that we were active within the country and with real evidence of permission. After tireless efforts, we finally had a letter of invitation in hand from DPRK authorities inviting us into the country as the first-ever large scale amateur radio event.

In April, 2013, we informed the world of our “P5 Project”. We were making numerous visits to the DPRK and establishing real contacts. We were spending thousands of dollars of our family’s money shuttling back and forth from our homes to Pyongyang, and we wanted to give hope to the DX Community that an operation might actually take place.

All told, we made nine visits to the DPRK. Despite several false leads, for the most part our efforts seemed pointless, unproductive and futile.

Until recently, when we finally got our big break.

As part of our P5 Project, we retained an expert in all things North Korea to work and lobby on our behalf. Our “Emissary” was very interested in our project and asked for no money from us. Our “Emissary” has strong relationships within the DPRK and regularly travels there.

In February 2016, our Emissary contacted us while we were on the VP8STI/VP8SGI DXpedition. Our Emissary had been communicating with relevant DPRK officials and sensed a new willingness to consider our proposal.

We renewed our proposal and the talks continued. When we returned home, we learned that we were very close to having complete permission. After a couple more months of back and forth negotiations, the DPRK agreed to a ten day amateur radio activity with three radios and up to 20 team members. A venue was investigated and approved.

Like the 2012 706T Dxpedition, the DPRK officials wanted to showcase a new resort and offered it as a DXpedition location. Within a span of a few weeks our Emissary and one of our team leaders made a visit to Pyongyang to have face to face meetings with high level officials. These officials had been involved in Dennis Rodman’s visit as well as the just-completed Pyongyang marathon race. Now that the marathon was over, we had their full attention and cooperation. Things were moving fast.

The DPRK officials stipulated that only three Americans could be on the team and no Japanese, but beyond that we were given the green light to begin assembling a team of varying nationalities from Europe, South America, and Oceania.

The DPRK officials insisted on no publicity in advance of us going on the air, so everyone joining our team was sworn to secrecy. A website was developed but would not be launched until we were live and on the air within the DPRK. It was agreed that we would use the call sign P5DX.

Subsequently, the entire project fell apart.

While still trying to keep everything a secret, the largeness of this fee required that we approach several of the biggest amateur radio foundations for financial grants to help us with our tremendous up-front costs.

Given the outpouring of support that these amateur radio consortia had given to lesser-needed entities in the past, it never occurred to us that they would resist supporting a trip to P5. One organization actually said that we didn’t need their funding because we could charge whatever we wanted for the QSLs!

I have tremendous respect for these organizations and I am deeply disappointed that they could not find a way to support our plans. This left my Co-Leader, David-K3LP and I no other recourse but to drain our own personal retirement savings to provide the bulk of our funding. In addition to our upfront license fees, we needed to buy radios, power supplies, coax, antennas and many more items. We purchased roughly \$16,000 in equipment and we spent almost \$4000 to ship it FedEx to Beijing to our staging area, where it still sits.

We continued to discreetly build our team. Many potential team members were not able to travel to the DPRK with such short notice, which was understandable. We worked very hard and we were glad that we were able to complete a final team of 14 very able operators by the time the deadline to apply for our DPRK visas was upon us. Our plans continued to come together and everyone booked their flights to Beijing. A hotel in China was secured for our pre-DXpedition briefings. Reservations with Air Koryo, the DPRK’s national airline, were made. Less than two weeks to go now. We were delighted that everyone seemed to respect our need for confidentiality. Nothing had been leaked.

It was at about this point in time that the word “leaked out” and the rumors began.

Who were the sources of the rumors? This is not been confirmed, but it is reasonable to presume that some members of the foundations that were approached for funding, and/or potential operators who were approached about joining the team, began to tell others. While it is also reasonable to presume that everyone who was approached were asked to keep quiet, either some were not, some did not agree, or some simply did not keep their word.

Within a short time, we were contacted by numerous other amateur radio websites and bloggers asking if we were the ones involved in these rumors. We tried not to comment at all, but the rumors would not go away. Finally we admitted we might be making progress but begged for discretion, saying that negotiations were still ongoing and that one of the conditions of the trip was that we not go public until we were ready to go on the air. But in pursuit of their own interests in having a “scoop”, most re-published the unsubstantiated rumors and, as expected, this brought out the crazies and every armchair DXer with an opinion chimed in.

Without dwelling on the ugly details, subsequent to the rumors being published, permission for several of the operating team was withdrawn. Further developments lead to the entire trip being cancelled, despite the large investment already in time, energy, effort, and funding.

So who is to blame? Did someone on the team simply trust someone who was untrustworthy? Did someone knowingly break their word to get a “scoop”? Did someone overhear something and figure it out, and the devil with the consequences?

While we may never know for certain who it was, the bottom line is that a few individuals put their own personal interests and agendas ahead of the best interests of all Amateur Radio operators. They may believe that they have done us all, or at least themselves, a “great service”. They have not.

One can argue the merits of operating from an entity like North Korea, or whether or not it should ever have been or continue to be included on the DXCC list. And many of us can remember when similar arguments were made over inclusion of countries that at the time were also not exactly fond of Amateur Radio operating (such as Albania and the People’s Republic of China, to name two) or what it could represent. That does not justify the mud slinging that some have projected towards the organizers of this project, nor does it justify the attempts to delay, derail, or outright sabotage the project.

What is most unfortunate, though, is the ethics of some people who put the need to be first to shout it from the rooftops over discretion, people who will promise anything to get the news and then ignore every promise that they made to get it. Once upon a time, this was denounced under names like “yellow journalism”. Now it is justified by claims of “openness” and “sunshine rules”. Those rules exist for good reasons. Being used as an excuse to betray others after giving their word of discretion or outright silence... that’s not why those rules exist.

Once, someone caught breaking their word like this would be shamed, and justifiably so. Now, they are proud of themselves. They shouldn’t be. But so long as we tolerate this behavior, it will continue.

Pogo was right. “We have met the enemy — and he is us.”

# Meet SV2RSG

Courtesy of DX World

Dx'ers who have yet to contact Monk Apollo for that elusive Mt. Athos contact got some good news at the end of April... their odds of working the elusive entity have improved dramatically!

I am Monk Iakovos and I live in Koutloumousiou Holy Monastery in Mt. Athos. I became a Radio Amateur in 2015 after training from George SV1RP, and exams I took in the Ministry of Telecommunication.



The ever-persistent **Hassan the Pirate** from Baghdad, Iraq continues to plague the Amateur Radio bands. This guy has been pirating and bootlegging multiple calls for several years. He has been heard bootlegging the calls YI1HR, YI1H, YI1HRP and YI1HI and pirating the calls YI1BGD, YI1IRQ, YI1DZ and most recently TA7/YI1RZ.

Unfortunately in Iraq there does not seem to be any enforcement to take Hassan off the air, much less do anything about the situation. Therefore let's get the word out not to work or spot Hassan who operates on 20 Meters SSB, usually around 14178-14188.

In fact the best policy is to ignore him completely on the air.

— **Bernie McClenny W3UR / The Daily DX**

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH**!

Just send an email to [wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and the automation should take care of the rest!

## DX News Briefs



In 1970, Martti OH2BH became QRV as **ZA/OH2BH**, the first activation from Albania in many years. 860 QSOs were made during this. This was eventually followed up by the 1991 ZA1A operation, the first major activation by a large multi-national group. This in turn led to the ZA1UT station being established at the Technical University of Tirana, and to the licensing of many Albanian nationals. Because of these efforts, Albania is no longer amongst the rarest entities to work on the air today.

OH2BH will be returning to the same beach he first operated from in 1970. He will be QRV only on 17 and 20 meters, and hopes to work as many of the original 860 stations as possible. He also will be reminiscing with ZA1B. "So good days are now coming back:" — ZA/OH2BH

VA1AXC is currently QRV as **CYØ/VA1AXC** from Sable Island NA-063. He is in the midst of an 8 week work shift coordinating logistics for the new National Park. He is QRV as time permits, mainly 20 meters circa 2300 Z. QSL via JE1LET direct only -- OPDX

DF2WO is now QRV as **XT2AW** through 15 May, all bands and modes as propagation permits. QSL via MØOXO — DF2WO

JAØJHQ will be ARV as **E6AC** 5 – 10 May, 160 through 6, primarily CW with a little SSB & RTTY. More information at <http://pandasan.jimdo.com> QSL via JAØJHQ — JAØJHQ

3 amateurs from India will be QRV as **AT5P** from AS-173, 6 -9 May. 2 stations will be QRV 40 – 10 meters. QSL via NI5DX — OPDX

FM5BH will be QRV as TO972M from NA-107 28 – 29 May, during the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL via FM5BH — FM5BH

EA5RM will be QRV in his spare time as **CP1XRM** from 1 July through 3 August, working on an NGO Project installing HF radios in isolated small villages. QSL via EA5RM — EA5RM

The "A-Sixpedition" group will be QRV as **S79V** from AF-024 1 – 10 July, 160 – 10, CW SSB RTTY & PSK. More information at <http://www.a6dx.com/index.html> QSL via IZ8CLM — OPDX

**CY9C** will be QRV 19 – 29 August from St. Paul. They will have two separate sites operating, about 1.5 miles apart. Up to date information at <http://www.CY9DXpedition.com> QSL via WA4DAN, although they strongly prefer using OQRS via ClubLog -- NØTG

Several operators will be QRV as **D66D** from AF-007 mid-September to early October. This will be the first activation of the D66 prefix. More info at <http://www.cdpx.cz> QSL via OK6DJ — OK6DJ

A group of Bulgarian amateurs will be QRV as **H44GC** 24 September – 3 October, and then as **H4ØGC** 4 -17 October, and the returning as **H44GC** 18 – 21 October. More information at <http://www.c21gc.com> QSL both calls via LZ1GC — LZ1GC

## QSL Routes

3C7A via LA7GIA – JA1HGY	SM5T via SM5TSP – AD1C
3XY1D via DL7UFR – W4DN	TI5/KL9A via AC7DX – JA1HGY
3XY1T via I2YSB – W3AWU	TO2TT via I2YSB – N2ZN
5H3JA via JA7SGV – JA1HGY	TR8CA via F6CBC – N2ZN
9G5TT via I2YSB – N2ZN	TT8TT via I2YSB – N2ZN
9J2T via I2YSB – N2ZN	TX7G via N7SMI – W4DN
9MØO via OH2YY – JA1HGY	TY1AA via I2YSB – N2ZN
A52NH via JAØJHQ – JA1HGY	V44KAI via W5TFW – JA1HGY
CP6AA via IK6GPZ – W2GR	V55V via DJ8VC – JA1HGY
FR/DJ7RJ via DJ7RJ – W4DN	V6Z via N3SL – LU2DKN
KL7RA via N6TR – N2ZN	VP8RHF via OE1ZJC – JA1HGY
MMØT via GM3WUX – AD1C	XT2TT via I2YSB – N2ZN
P4ØAH via K9QVB – AD1C	YJØBJ via VK2BJ – JA1HGY
PJ2T via W3HNK – W4DN	ZL9A via VE3LYC—W3AWU

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





## WASH Classifieds

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

The Cingolani Building

300 North McKean Street, Butler PA 16001

Phone: 724-283-0653

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

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at [www.dashtoons.com](http://www.dashtoons.com) !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, [www.cafepress.com/shopdash](http://www.cafepress.com/shopdash)



The deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> for US radio amateurs to submit suggestions to the ARRL Board of Directors' HF Band Planning Committee regarding possible changes to the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) **Region 2 Band Plan**. That band plan and other significant Amateur Radio spectrum issues will be on the agenda for the IARU Region 2 General Assembly in Chile this fall. The ARRL joins other IARU member societies in the Americas in seeking input from the amateur community on the Region 2 HF Band Plan. The HF Band Planning Committee will review the current plan, consider comments from US radio amateurs, and recommend any changes to the ARRL Board for submission to IARU Region 2.

"The ARRL HF Band Planning Committee wants to stress that the IARU Region 2 Band Plan is a voluntary guideline and does not supersede FCC regulations related to spectrum usage," Committee Chairman and ARRL Second Vice President Brian Milesoshosky N5ZGT, noted. He also pointed out two other issues for radio amateurs to consider.

Most Region 2 countries outside the US do not have the sort of detailed sub-band regulations contained in the FCC's Part 97. For radio amateurs in these countries, the Region 2 Band Plan may serve as the only source of guidance on spectrum usage.

The designation of a calling frequency or band segment for a particular purpose or mode in any IARU band plan does not convey any special rights or exclusivity of use. On the other hand the *absence* of a calling frequency or band segment associated with a particular purpose or mode should not suggest that these have been overlooked or are viewed negatively.

The Committee urges US radio amateurs who are considering suggesting revisions to the IARU Region 2 Band Plan first to study the existing **IARU Region 2 Band Plan**. They then should formulate a clear statement of any proposed changes, including a brief explanation of why each particular change would benefit all IARU Region 2 spectrum users. Participants should include name and call sign.

**Submit** input via e-mail by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Messages will be automatically acknowledged.

The 19<sup>th</sup> IARU **Region 2 General Assembly** will take place in mid-October in Viña del Mar, Chile. Held every 3 years, the Region 2 Conference is attended by delegations from IARU member societies in throughout the Americas.

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

## FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 — The FCC has put on public notice and invited comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11767](#)), filed on behalf of an amateur amplifier distributor, which seeks to revise the Amateur Service rules regarding maximum permissible amplifier gain. **Expert Linears America LLC** of Magnolia, Texas, which distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy, wants the FCC to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on amateur amplifiers, spelled out in §97.317(a)(2). Expert asserts that there should be no gain limitation at all on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service.

"There is no technical or regulatory reason [that] an amplifier capable of being driven to full legal output by even a fraction of a watt should not be available to Amateur Radio operators in the United States," Expert said in its *Petition*.

Expert maintains that the 15 dB gain limitation is an unneeded holdover from the days when amplifiers were less efficient and the FCC was attempting to rein in the use of Amateur Service amplifiers by Citizens Band operators. While the FCC proposed in its 2004 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order* in WT Docket 04-140 to delete the requirement that amplifiers be designed to use a *minimum* of 50 W of drive power and subsequently did so, it did not further discuss the 15 dB amplification limit in the subsequent **Report and Order** in the docket.

"Although no party advocated retention of the 15 dB limit, it remains in place today," Expert pointed out in its filing. "In the intervening years, advancements in Amateur Radio transmitter technology have led to the availability of highly compact, sophisticated low-power transmitters that require more than 15 dB of amplification to achieve maximum legal power output. Therefore, Expert seeks to remove the 15 dB limit from §97.317 so that Amateur Radio manufacturers and distributors will not be forced to needlessly cripple their amplifiers for sale in the United States."

Expert pointed to its Model 1.3K FA amplifier as an example of a linear "inherently capable of considerably more than 15 dB of amplification," which would make it a suitable match for low-power transceivers now on the market having output power on the order of 10 W.

The US Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard will cosponsor the 66<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Radio **Cross-Band Communications Test** on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The event gets under way at 1200 UTC, with activity continuing throughout the day. Some military stations may not operate for the entire period.

"New for Armed Forces Day this year, military stations and Amateur Radio operators are authorized to directly communicate on the 60 meter interoperability channels," US Army MARS Program Manager Paul English WD8DBY, pointed out.

The annual communications exercise is an opportunity to test two-way communication between amateur and military communicators and features traditional military-to-amateur cross-band SSB and CW communication and offers an opportunity for radio amateurs to utilize modern military communications modes such as MIL-STD serial PSK and automatic link establishment (ALE).

These tests give Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners (SWLs) a chance and a challenge to demonstrate individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from military radio stations. QSL cards will be provided to stations that contact military stations during this event. The **complete announcement** of stations, times, and frequencies—subject to change—is available on the US Army MARS website.

Participating military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations on selected amateur frequencies, which the military station operator will announce. Contacts should be limited to a minute or two, so all participants get a chance.

Stations copying the Secretary of Defense message from Army and Navy stations should send their entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, Commander Netcom, ATTN: NETC-ITSMD, Bldg 90549 Jim Ave, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-7070.

Stations copying Secretary of Defense message from Air Force stations, should send entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, 38CYRS/Chief AF MARS, 203W Losey St, Room 1200, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**

# Skyview Radio Society Swap'n'Shop

Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse

2335 Turkey Ridge Road, New Kensington, PA

Talk-in on 146.640 PL 131.8

Admission \$5

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



# Uniontown ARC GabFest 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest

Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Setup Time at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

W3PIE Clubhouse, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road (just off State Route 51 & US 119 or State Route 43), Uniontown

Talk-in on 147.045 PL 131.8

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

More Information at [www.w3pie.org/gabfest.htm](http://www.w3pie.org/gabfest.htm)



# Butler County ARA Swapfest 2016

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters

Unionville Volunteer Fire Department

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

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8

Admission \$5

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



# WACOM Hamfest 2016

Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Vendors Setup starting at 6 AM

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington, PA 15301

Talk-in on 146.790 PL 131.8

Admission \$5

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





# 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & Computer Show

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
at the Big Butler Fairgrounds, 1127 New Castle Road (US 422), Prospect PA  
\$5 Per Person Admission Donation

Indoor Tables & Tailgate / Flea Market Spaces Available

Flea Market spaces \$10 for the first space, \$5 for each additional space

Farm Show Grounds open at 5 PM May 31st for Vendor & Tailgate Setup

Indoor Tables \$20 per table and may be reserved by contacting  
Bob Benna N3LWP (412) 366-0488

Or mail reservations to 1010 Willow Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Table reservation cut-off date May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

More information on prizes and tables, please contact:  
Jim Heiles KB3IYS (412) 600-1979 [kb3iys@hotmail.com](mailto:kb3iys@hotmail.com)

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at  
<http://www.breezeshooters.net>



## ***Eighteenth Annual WASH Picnic at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest***

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
from approximately 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  
At the **WASH** Club Location  
Somewhere Out in the Flea Market

*(We have 3 spaces together, exact location to be determined)*

*A tradition at the Breezeshooter's Hamfest for over 28 years on & off,  
and a WASH formal or informal activity for the last 17!*

Spend the morning meeting your fellow WPA & Regional Hams, buying or selling stuff & dodging roving golf carts full of Breezeshooters — then join your fellow **WASH** members and our invited friends for lunch, friendship, bragging rights, and (if set up and operational) operating N3SH/3 from the Flea Market!

This will be a "Pot Luck/Covered Dish" Picnic — The Club has traditionally provides the burgers and hot dogs; we're asking everyone coming to bring buns, soft drinks, water, a side dish, snacks, fruit, cookies, dessert, ice, or whatever they can.

Contact Ron W3WN [w3wn at n3sh dot org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org) to coordinate who's bringing what.

There is no charge to attend (outside of bringing something to share) but the picnic is not open to the general public, only **WASH** members (including their families), friends & invited guests.



# WASHfest 2017

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

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

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

**Home Economics Building, South Park**

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

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Donation \$5



**(800) 545-8881**

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LOCATION!**

Due to tentatively scheduled major renovations,  
we regret that the Castle Shannon VFD  
Memorial Hall will not be available to us in 2017

**NEW  
LOCATION!**

**MAIN PRIZES TBA — You've Got to Play to WIN!**

**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>, 2017. Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance seven 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 2017**  
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.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

## North Hills ARC 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Hamfest

Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Parkwood Presbyterian Church

4289 Mt. Royal Blvd, Allison Park, PA 15101

Talk-in on 147.09 PL 88.5

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://nharc.org>



## Somerset County ARC Hamfest

Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (new date), 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Somerset County Technology Center

281 Technology Drive, Somerset PA 15501

Talk-in on 147.195 & 443.250 PL 123

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.k3smt.org/hamfest/hamfest.htm>



## Meeting Minutes continued from Page 4

by Rich N3SBF to authorize Mark N3RDV to reimburse Frank N3FB \$1334 for the cost of the building, pending receipts. Passed unanimously.

- Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Larry K3VX, to reimburse Carol KB3GMN for the \$10 cost of the club table at the 2 Rivers ARC Hamfest. Passed unanimously.
- Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Glen KE7FD, to reimburse Frank for two electric bills for the repeater, totaling \$70. Passed unanimously
- Motion by Mark N3RDV, second by Gene KB3JHR to allocate up to \$45 per month to cover the N3FB/R electric bill for the remainder of the year, as previously agreed by the club. Passed unanimously.

### By-Laws Committee (old business continued):

Rick KB3IAC began discussing the report from the By-Laws committee from last year. Essentially, many of our existing by-laws need updating to meet IRS requirements for 501(c)(3) status. [For example, the Treasurer's report should report beginning balance, income, expenditures, final balance; not just the current bank balance).

Rick covered the first half of the by-laws and what changes would be needed. (Second half to be covered at the May meeting due to time constraints). Some discussion on wording of proposed 4.2.5 and 5.1.4 sections. Some discussion on whether or not to be able to exclude potential members or remove current members. Also discussion on types of membership categories. (A misunderstanding of the status of the "out of town" members shown in the newsletter was cleared up as well).

Motion to accept sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 with minor changes (mainly spelling) as noted, by Frank N3FB, second by Glen KE7FD. Passed unanimously.

### New Business: None

Good of the Order: Bob AB3ED inquired that if he could get a surplus laptop for the club at about \$75, should he? General consensus of "yes". Motion by Glen KE7FD, second by Rich N3SBF, to authorize Bob to purchase a surplus laptop and to reimburse him up to \$75. Passed unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn by Gene KB3JHR, second by Larry K3VX and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 21:45

The FCC has put "[on circulation](#)" its decision on the ARRL's *Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708)*, seeking to change the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limit in §97.307(f) and replace it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz. Proceedings on circulation are pending action by the full Commission, although there is a current backlog, and FCC action is not likely in the near future. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD, said the League has remained patient.

"While we had hoped for more responsive handling, it is understood that the large number of comments from radio amateurs on the *Petition* took some time to sort out," he said. "It was good to note that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has circulated a draft of what we presume to be a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* responsive to our *Petition* to the Commissioners for their consideration. We hope to see the proposal released soon."

In its petition, the League asserted that the changes proposed would "relieve the Amateur Service of outdated, 1980s-era restrictions that presently hamper or preclude Amateur Radio experimentation with modern high frequency (HF) and other data transmission protocols" and would "permit greater flexibility in the choice of data emissions."

Symbol rate represents the number of times per second that a change of state occurs, not to be confused with data (or bit) rate. Current FCC rules limit digital data emissions below 28 MHz to 300 baud, and between 28.0 and 28.3 MHz to 1200 baud. "Transmission protocols are available and in active use in other radio services in which the symbol rate exceeds the present limitations set forth in §97.307(f) of the Commission's Rules, but the necessary bandwidths of those protocols are within the bandwidth of a typical HF single sideband channel (3 kHz)," the ARRL pointed out in its 2013 petition. At one point, the League's petition topped the FCC's list of "[Most Active Proceedings](#)," attracting hundreds of comments.

Meanwhile, the Amateur Radio community continues to await action on [ET Dockets 12-338 and 15-99](#) that would spell out service rules for the new 2200 and 630 meter Amateur Radio bands. The FCC was expected to issue a *Report and Order* last fall. That subsequently got moved back to the first quarter of 2016, which also has slipped.

Regulatory provisions under consideration have included a possible notification requirement by some radio amateurs to utilities that operate PLC systems in that region of the spectrum, prior to their starting operation on either new band. Utilities use unlicensed PLC systems to control parts of the electrical power grid.

Earlier this year, the ARRL has asked the Commission not to adopt overly broad requirements to notify utilities in advance of intended Amateur Radio operation on the pending bands. The Amateur Service would gain access to 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200 meters) and 472-479 kHz (630 meters). Both bands have been used by numerous Experimental (Part 5) licensees, and the ARRL's WD2XSH [600 Meter Experiment](#) continues.

## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

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N3SH / WA3SH  
NP2SH/B

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