



# WASHRAG<sup>TM</sup>



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 10  
OCTOBER 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 10

OCTOBER 2016

### Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, October 6<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 Pa QSO, 501(c)(3) progress, updating the by-laws, Officer elections for 2017, JOTA, other club plans for 2016 & 2017, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: Bob Greene KC3DOF operating the N3SH/P NPOTA station from the Friendship Hill picnic grounds. (That place IS gorgeous, isn't it?) More pictures and story on Page 7

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2016 Bill Hill W3WH

## 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	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
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 2017 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 October 20<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, October 20<sup>th</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)

2017 test dates:      WASHFest 2017, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
                              Remaining Dates TBA

### Carol's Comments



October is here, which means the Pa QSO Party contest is knocking on the door. I hope everyone gets a chance to operate! Richie and I will be up at Clarion, of course, along with Bill, Larry and Harold. Hope to work you!

Nominations for 2017 Club Officers will be at the meeting this month, as well as a talk from Rick.

As you know, about seven of us worked National Parks on the Air a few weeks back. Bill W3WH wrote a very nice article about our adventure (it's in the newsletter!) for all to read. It was a nice time for everyone!

Happy Halloween to all! See you at the meeting.

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

If you've had trouble logging into Logbook of the Word since September 19<sup>th</sup>, it may be because of a recent upgrade to the password-checking mechanism.

ARRL LotW staff updated the software to permit both upper & lower case to be used in passwords (previously, all passwords were stored in lower case), but some users who had been using mixed case now have issues.

If you are having problems, try logging in all lower case. If that fails, [contact](#) the LotW Help Desk.

Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, a few weeks after the start of Autumn, was another quiet morning for the members of **the WASH Breakfast Gang** who once again gathered at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg. Sadly, Ye Editor and the family had a funeral to attend, but Jim WB4GCS tells us that the Gang was a bit small this month, consisting of himself and Bill N3BPB. Topics included talking about the Vietnam war, 5/10 GHz satellites, and the true impact of illegal immigration (in context to what Bill sees in his business). And a lot more, no doubt.

Surely we can do a little better for our pre-Halloween turnout, can't we? Hope to see you and the rest of the Gang on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, as usual at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 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?

Incidentally, for technical reasons due to changes on the website, the **reminder coming from the old YahooGroup has been shut off**. So please note the date in your calendar!

We received a very pleasant email from Jim K3WR earlier this month. Amongst many other things dating back to the early days of the club, Jim designed the original **WASH** Club Logo, back in the day. He decided that the old logo was in need of a refresh, and with one thing leading to another, he's come up with a refreshed logo. It's now on the cover page in the top left corner; unlike the original, it does not have a white background, so it works better when superimposed on pictures. He also created a "non traditional but nice looking" one, that you'll find at the bottom of the meeting minutes on Page 4. Let us know what you think of these... and thanks Jim, it's appreciated... and we do hope you'll keep hanging around a little...

We're only a few days away from the annual **Pennsylvania QSO Party**. As of deadline, due to a scheduling conflict, only one group from the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION** will be heading up to Clarion County, to operate from Carol & Richie's weekend getaway; the first time we've done that as a club in many years. It's still not too late to join the group, or to make other arrangements. It's a fun weekend, especially because it's nice to be one of "the hunted" rather than one of "the hunters" as so often happens. Don't hold back! And don't worry about your license class (that's what control ops are for!)

Our **last VE session for the year** is coming up in a few weeks. As always, any club VE's who can spare a few hours to help out will be greatly appreciated! Our first session for 2017 will be at **WASHFEST 2017** in February, with the rest of the year to be scheduled. As always, our thanks to WPXI & Frank N3FB for making the room arrangements.

Don't forget that this month's meeting is our **annual nomination for next year's club officers**, with elections for 2017 officers at the November meeting. Up this year are President (1 year term) and VP/Secretary (2 year term). (Remember, if you don't come to the meeting... you might just get nominated yourself!)

There are only a few more South Western Pennsylvania hamfests left before the end of the year (Uniontown, Butler, and WACOM are all we know about — see Page 13 or the appropriate club websites for details). THAT means that the winter hiatus isn't far off, and THAT means that before you know it, two big **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION** events will be coming up... the annual **2 Meter Simplex Contest** in January, and **WASHFEST 2017** in February. Seems like a long ways off, right?

Check into **WASHNET** lately?

### WASHNet NCS Schedule

10/03/2016	Carol KB3GMN	<b>11/28/2016</b>	Larry K3VX
10/10/2016	Chuck KC3ELA	12/05/2016	Mike WA3PYU
10/17/2016	Digital Net	12/12/2016	Rick KB3IAC
<b>10/24/2016</b>	Dave N3DFK	12/19/2016	Digital Net
10/31/2016	Fred KB3DCO	<b>12/26/2016</b>	Bill W3WH
11/07/2016	Glen KE7FD	01/02/2017	TBA
11/14/2016	Harold K3HCR	01/09/2017	TBA
11/21/2016	Digital Net	01/16/2017	Digital Net

Indicates Swap Net After the Regular Net

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



## Minutes, September 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

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

Carol KB3GMN called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours. 14 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 WA3VSS, second by Larry K3VX, passed unanimously.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read. Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Harold K3HCR to accept. Passed unanimously.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): Next test session will be at WPXI on October 20<sup>th</sup>. VE's needed as always. Thanks again to WPXI for the use of their community room for testing this year, & to N3FB for making the arrangements.

Repeaters (N3FB): There are still some issues with the receiver voter. It's better, but it still has a ways to go.

**WASHNet** (KC3ELA): No report.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): Upcoming events in the newsletter. Only one group now from the Club going out for Pa QSO on October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> — Clarion County (N3SBF/KB3GMN), with several other members joining them; the Heritage operation from Fayette County did not come together due to scheduling conflicts.

Field Day 2017 (KB3IAC/W3WH): No report.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Member contributions will be accepted tonight.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KB3GMN): The NPOTA operation to Friendship Hill, near Port Marion, had to be rescheduled due to poor weather on August 17<sup>th</sup>. New date is tentatively September 13<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. Joe W3BC, on behalf of the ARRL WPA section, is loaning us a 6 foot banner to display and help advertise Amateur Radio.

### Old Business:

- Frank N3FB updated us on the Band Pass Filter issue on behalf of Jim WB4GCS and himself. They contacted the manufacturer who repaired several of the units for the cost of postage, no bill even though they were out of warranty. A \$20 gift card to Subway was sent to him as thanks.
- Brief discussion of IRS 501(c)(3) status. Paperwork has been signed and submitted, we are waiting for word from the IRS. Motion by Mark N3RDV, second by Bill W3WH, to reimburse Rick KB3IAC for the costs of the filing fee and related postage, sum of \$275. Passed unanimously.

New Business: Motion by Bill W3WH to approve payment of the N3FB/R electric bill, \$42.44. Second by Larry K3VX. Approved unanimously.

### Good of the Order:

- K3SOM will be talking about the new ICOM IC-7300 at the next W3KWH meeting
- WACOM is having Yaesu rep(s) at their next hamfest, along with a "hands on" display of all current models. Also, KJI in NJ is now a Yaesu authorized dealer.
- Carol passed around an Incoming QSL Bureau envelope for N3SH, including a large number of cards from the ARRL Centennial operation.

Motion to Adjourn by Harold K3HCR, second by Frank N3FB and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19:40.

Following a short break, guest speaker Joe Shupienis W3BC, the ARRL WPA Section Affiliated Club Coordinator, gave the assembled members a talk on what the ARRL can do for the club, and what the club can do for the ARRL & the Amateur Radio community!



## WASH Spotlight: W3BC

Our guest speaker for the September meeting, Joe Shupienis W3BC, the ARRL WPA Section Affiliated Club Coordinator. He gave a great talk about what the ARRL can do for the club, and what the club can do for the ARRL & the Amateur Radio community!

More pictures from the September meeting on Page 6

Photos courtesy of and  
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Notarius W3WN



Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter@n3sh.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	KB3RVI	N3SBF	WASH FL	WASH SC	Silent Keys
AA3GM	KC3DOF	NU3Q	KA3UPY/M	N3RNX	
AB3NM	KC3ELA	W3KTV	W4ZE	WASH TN	AB3KA
AE3DL	KC3HIK	W3LE	WASH NE	K3OL	K3EED
K3HCR	KC3HNU	W3VFA	NØPEU	KE3XB	K3LIE
K3SGT	KC4WTT	W3WH	WASH OR	N3YPB	KA3NMG
K3VX	KE7FD	W3WN	NØVLR	WASH TX	KB3ENX
KA3VXM	KI5ZT	W4CKR	NØWPV	NB3C	KB3FNM
KB3DCO	N1NCZ	WA3PYU	KB3NVL	K3LGM	KB3FQT
KB3GMN	N3DFK	WA3VSS	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	KB3JHQ
KB3GMU	N3FB	WB4GCS	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	N3CZZ
KB3IAC	N3IDH	WO3Z	N8DPW	WASH VI	N3FZ
KB3IVX	N3KFD			NP2JF	N3HKQ
KB3JHR	N3RDV				N3KEH
KB3ORO	N3RHT				N3OBD

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

Through September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

W3ZLK  
WA3JPP

# 2016 / 17 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

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

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>	<i>WASH</i> 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>	59 <sup>th</sup> Jamboree On The Air	<a href="http://jotajoti.info/">http://jotajoti.info/</a>
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> VEC Exam	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
October 29 <sup>th</sup> — 30 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cqww.com">http://www.cqww.com</a>
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting & 2017 Elections	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
November 5 <sup>th</sup> — 7 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	WACOM Hamfest	<a href="http://www.wacomarc.org">http://www.wacomarc.org</a>
November 12 <sup>th</sup> — 19 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
November 26 <sup>th</sup> — 27 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WW DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.cqww.com">http://www.cqww.com</a>
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
December 2 <sup>nd</sup> — 4 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 10 <sup>th</sup> — 11 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
December 17 <sup>th</sup> — 18 <sup>th</sup>	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew/">http://www.kkn.net/stew/</a>
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Straight Key Night	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASH</i> 2 M Simplex Contest	<a href="http://www.n3sh.org">http://www.n3sh.org</a>
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave PSK	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
January 27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	CQ 160 Meter Contest CW	<a href="http://www.cq160.com">http://www.cq160.com</a>
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>
February 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>WASHFest 2017</i>	<b>New Location!</b> Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
March 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL DX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave SSB	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.net">http://www.breezeshooters.net</a>



# "Seen" at the September Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN



WO3Z, W3WH



N3SBF



KC3DOF



WA3VSS, K3HCR,  
W3KTW (ex KC3HNT)



K3SGT



KB3RVI



KB3GMU, N3FB, KC3DOF



W3BC, KC3DOF, K3VX



KB3GMN



N3RDV



# National Parks On The Air at Friendship Hill

Bill Hill W3WH

This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our National Parks. In recognition of this milestone (and to generate Ham activity) the ARRL created the NPOTA program. It has been fabulously successful with spots on the Dx Cluster every day and a full schedule of activations on the ARRL wevbsite. A small group from our Club planned to activate Friendship Hill which is located outside of Uniontown near the Monongahela River in August, but surprisingly, we were rained out. We rescheduled and went there on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. The weather this time turned out to be "severe clear", just perfect.

The group consisted of Bob Greene KC3DOF, Scott Rosenberger (aka Harold K3HCR) Richie N3SBF and Carol KB3GMN Danko, Larry Comden K3VX, Chuck Davis N3UJZ and Bill Hill W3WH. We arrived at the park around 9:30, and were immediately impressed with it's beauty and pristine condition. A park employee helped us carry our equipment with his John Deere Mule to a shelter conveniently located near some trees and the restrooms.

While Bob Greene set up his portable vertical to go with his QRP gear, Harold put his homebrew Buddipole together, Richie set up an end-fed wire and Chuck worked on raising a shorty (67") G5RV. While all this was going on Larry moved his car to the far end of the parking lot and set up his mobile station consisting of a Icom 706 and Hamsticks for 40 and 20 meters. In the meantime Carol set up the picnic area in anticipation of lunch.

After we all got on the air with high hopes not much of anything happened. Chuck worked a station in Michigan, Bob worked a fellow in Greensboro, Pa. He got a 599+ report only to find out that Greensboro is about a mile from the Park. Larry struggled and logged 2 or 3 Q's. Not a memorable beginning.

At this point Larry and I decided to abandon the Hamsticks and erect my CrankIR portable vertical. I bought this antenna a couple of years ago and discovered that it is, sad to say, at least a challenge to set up. However we persevered and then broke for a gourmet lunch of delicious hot dogs and Macaroni salad. Those hot dogs really hit the spot. Thank you Carol!

After lunch Harold and Richie erected Harold's OCF dipole, Bob switched to 20 meters and Chuck took a nap. Meanwhile Larry and I worked nearly 60 of the deserving and 40, 30 and 20. We worked stations from all over the US, Canada and several Europeans. We are delighted with contacts and finally after two years the CrankIR has proven to be a worthwhile purchase.

The dearth of SSB contacts is kind of mystifying. We really need to work on improving our SSB success rate. The radios and equipment are fine but the Q's are really hard to come by when you're doing a portable operation. Nevertheless just being in this beautiful setting with good friends and great hotdogs made the day worthwhile for me and I hope for everyone. We shut down about 3:00. Larry and I left for home and the rest of the group stayed and toured Albert Gallatin's former home.

Next up: Pa QSO Party in Clarion County.



K3VX



KC3DOF



N3UJZ



N3SBF



Photo below courtesy of & © Copyright 2016  
Bob Greene KC3DOF



KB3GMU

All other photos courtesy of & © Copyright  
2016 Bill Hill W3WH





## An Interesting Problem

Larry Comden K3VX

I recently installed two lightning arrestor modules for a 40 Meter vertical and an 88 foot dipole.

The dipole is fed with open wire line, a 4 to 1 balun and a long coax run to the arrestor. The vertical is coax fed all the way.

According to the SWR readings on the external tuner in the shack. The vertical is 1.2 to 1 straight through.

The dipole requires adjustment of the tuner for each band.

The usual procedure is to put about 10W into the tuner, adjust for the lowest SWR (around 2 or 2.5 to 1), Then raise the power to the desired level.

When the power is raised the SWR goes crazy and the rig folds the power back to avoid damage.

First test : Put a dummy load at the end of the coax feed to the dipole. Apply power up to 100W.

The SWR is stable at 1.5 to 1. This implies the arrestor and coax are not the problem.

But wait; what is inside the lightning arrestor? In the ICE 303 type there is a gas tube which conducts when the voltage gets too high. There are other components which minimize a sharp voltage rise from a nearby lightning strike. Recall that the SWR of around 2.5 to 1 means the maximum voltage on the line for a given power is 2.5 times the minimum and that maximum repeats at regular intervals (an electrical half wavelength) along the line.

When the power is raised so is the voltage.

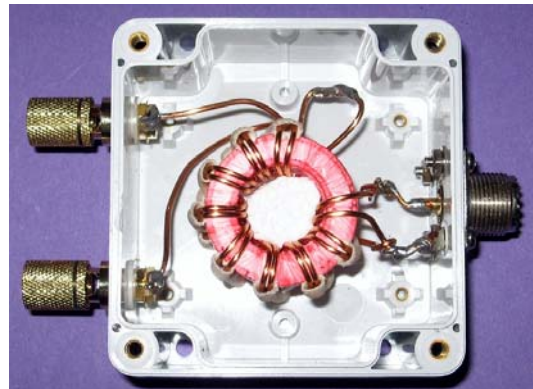
Eureka! The maximum voltage is occurring at or very near the arrestor, firing the gas tube and shunting the power to ground.

Second Test : Insert a short length of coax at the end of the feed to the dipole. Adjust the SWR with 10W applied. Still around 2 to 1. Raise the power to 100W.

No problem on 80, 40 or 30M. Need to further test on other bands. Purists will also observe that by lengthening the line the SWR seen at the arrestor has gone down and that's part of the effect. Maybe, since we know that the SWR at the antenna is always higher than the SWR at the line end due to line losses. The way to test this would be to add or subtract a half wave of line instead of the random length I used.

This problem is related to what Jim WB4GCS found in the defective band pass filters – high voltage caused by high SWR and high power. His solution is to put the filter between the transmitter and the antenna tuner where the filter would see 50 ohm input and output. The equivalent for the arrestor is to put a tuner at the antenna end so the arrestor is connected to a "flat" line.

And that's what I'm going to do.



## Scenes from the 2016 Skyview Hamfest

Courtesy of the Skyview Radio Society Q5'er, October 2016 issue, Jody R. Nelis Jr. K3JZD, Editor



2016 Skyview Hamfest Prize Winners included:

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| + Bob Mente NU3Q     | ARRL Repeater Handbook          |
| + Carol Danko KB3GMN | DX Engineering Gift Certificate |
| + Chuck Davis N3UUZ  | Solder Stand                    |
| + Bud Plants N3TIR   | Main Prize:                     |
|                      | Begali Paddles                  |

Congratulations to all of the winners, and to the Skyview Radio Society for another fantastic event!

(sorry, we don't know who to properly credit as the photographer)





# Amateur Radio Project at Carnegie Mellon University

Margaret Anne Smith, Carnegie Mellon Class of 2017 [masmith1@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:masmith1@andrew.cmu.edu)

We are a team of 5 Mechanical Engineer students at Carnegie Mellon, working to construct a satellite ground station for our Senior Design Project.

## Crowdsourced Satellite Ground Stations:

**Project Description:** *Our objective is to design, fabricate, and assemble an operational ground station that can establish communication with satellites in low earth orbit. The device will have a mechanical system for pointing, antenna and RF system for communications, and a control system to deal with pointing and handling of the input and output data.*

As we are beginning the design phase of the project, we have created a survey to better understand stakeholder requirements that need to be implemented. Can you forward this short survey to your club members and other radio enthusiasts that could help provide us with feedback for the design process? The survey can be accessed at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnD4F2YVP1mCdfeVkSblkQXcRStXbRvCrPPhkyzdPUz0VdgQ/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Our team would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with any members in your organization as well, particularly during the testing phase. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you!



## Amateur Radio Parity Act Passes In The US House of Representatives

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 — “The bill is passed without objection.” With those words, Amateur Radio history was made on September 12<sup>th</sup>, when the US House of Representatives [approved](#) the Amateur Radio Parity Act, [H.R. 1301](#) on a voice vote under a suspension of the rules. The focus of the campaign to enact the legislation into law now shifts to the US Senate. The House victory culminated many years of effort on ARRL’s part to gain legislation that would enable radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities to erect antennas that support Amateur Radio communication. The measure calls on the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules “to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land-use restrictions, and for other purposes.” While similar bills in past years gained some traction on Capitol Hill, it was not until the overwhelming grassroots support from the Amateur Radio community for H.R. 1301 shepherded by ARRL that a bill made it this far. The legislation faces significant obstacles to passage in the US Senate, however.

“This is huge step in our effort to enact legislation that will allow radio amateurs who live in deed-restricted communities the ability to construct an effective outdoor antenna,” ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, said. “Thanks to everyone for their help in this effort thus far. Now we must turn our full attention to getting the bill passed in the Senate.”

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board’s Legislative Advocacy Committee, has been heavily involved in efforts to move H.R. 1301 forward. “This has been a multiyear effort that is finally seeing some light,” he said. “The passage of the bill in the House is a major accomplishment, due to the hard work of so many — from the rank-and-file member to the officers and directors.”

Lisenco said it’s not a time to rest on our laurels. “We are only halfway there. The focus now shifts to our effort in the Senate,” he said. “We are beginning a massive e-mail campaign in which we need every member to write their two Senators using our simplified process. You will be hearing from President Roderick and from your Directors, asking you to go to our [‘Rally Congress’](#) page. Using your ZIP code, e-mails will be generated much like our recent letter campaign. You’ll fill in your name and address and press Enter. The e-mails will be sent directly to your Senators without you having to search through their websites.”

Lisenco said getting these e-mails to members’ Senators is a critical part of the process. “Those numbers matter! Please help us help you by participating in this effort,” he said.

As the [amended bill](#) provides, “Community associations should fairly administer private land-use regulations in the interest of their communities, while nevertheless permitting the installation and maintenance of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antennas. There exist antenna designs and installations that can be consistent with the aesthetics and physical characteristics of land and structures in community associations while accommodating communications in the Amateur Radio services.”

During this week’s limited debate, the House bill’s sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), thanked ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI) for reaching an agreement to move the bill forward “in a bipartisan and very positive manner.” He pointed out to his colleagues that Amateur Radio antennas are prohibited outright in some areas.

“For some this is merely a nuisance,” Kinzinger said, “but for others — those that use their Amateur Radio license for life-saving emergency communications — a dangerous situation can be created by limiting their ability to establish effective communication for those in need.”

Kinzinger said that in emergencies, hams can provide “a vital and life-saving function” when conventional communication systems are down. He also praised the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), a US Department of Defense-sponsored program, comprised largely of Amateur Radio volunteers, that also supports communication during emergencies and disasters.

Cosponsor US Rep Joe Courtney (D-CT) also urged the bill’s passage. “This is not just a feel-good bill,” Courtney said, recounting how Hurricane Sandy brought down the power grid, and “we saw all the advanced communications we take for granted...completely fall by the wayside.” Ham radio volunteers provided real-time communication in the storm’s wake, he said, saying the legislation was a way “to rebalance things” for radio amateurs who choose to live in deed-restricted neighborhoods by enabling them to install “non-intrusive antennas.”

Courtney noted that he spoke recently with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, and said that Wheeler “strongly supports this legislation.”

Leading up to the vote, Rep Paul Tonko (D-NY) also spoke in support of the legislation, calling it a commonsense approach that would build “fairness into the equation for Amateur Radio operators” in dealing with homeowners associations.

The earlier U.S. Senate version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, S. 1685, no longer is in play, and the Senate is expected to vote by unanimous consent on the version of H.R. 1301 that was adopted by the House on September 12<sup>th</sup>.



# "Cows Over The World" DXpedition Hits Sour Note

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 28<sup>th</sup> — The one-man "Cows Over the World" DXpedition has ended — prematurely, abruptly, and on a sad note. Tom Callas KCØW, reported that a theft this week in Kiribati has left him with nothing. He told *The Daily DX* that his Cows DXpedition is "permanently QRT."

"Everything I own was stolen on 28 September from here in Kiribati," Callas posted on his [QRZ.com page](#). "They took all the radios, computers, amplifiers, antennas, coax, everything. They even took my clothing and shoes. I have literally nothing left. I type this with tears in my eyes."

The "Cows Over the World" DXpedition got under way last spring, when the Minnesota DXer fired up as [KH8/KCØW](#) from American Samoa. Other stops followed. After a short hiatus, Callas had announced plans last week to resume with his [T3ØCOW](#) operation from Western Kiribati, but he said his intended "Top 25 Most Wanted" DXpeditions would not happen. He has been financing the round-robin DXpedition on his own. Callas was awaiting permission to operate from Tokelau and Nauru. All call signs in the all-CW DXpedition tour have included a "COW" suffix.

In addition to T3ØCOW, his Cows DXpedition has also included operations as [5WØCOW](#), [T2COW](#), and [YJØCOW](#).

Announced plans of operating from the Solomons, Tokelau, Bangladesh and other locations now are off the table.

Col McGowan MMØNDX and the DX World web site have set up a crowdfunding initiative for anyone who would like to assist KCØW. All monies raised will go directly to him. More information can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tom-callas>



## Update From KCØW

Chip Cohen W1YW

Belmont, MA, September 29<sup>th</sup> — Tom just emailed me (in response to my query). My impression is that he prefers to comment in detail at a later time...but here's the key points:

- 1) the events so discussed did occur;
- 2) He has very limited internet access for the time being;
- 3) He is able to travel and awaiting arrival of funds (I presume his own);
- 4) He plans to leave T30 as soon as possible;
- 5) He is grateful for offers but declining them at present;

6) Ham radio is not his first priority (understandably) —at this given moment.

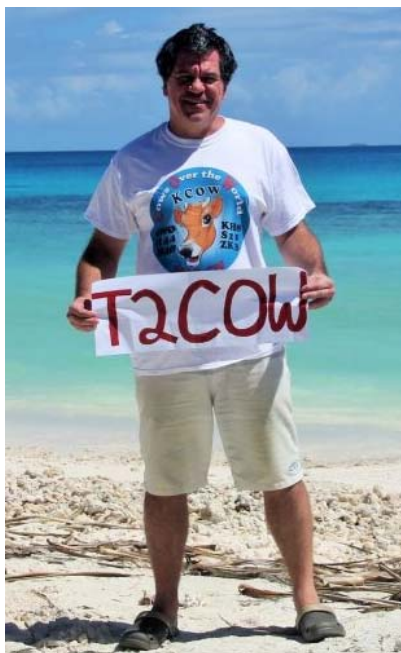
Tom is an \*\*experienced\*\* traveler and I am sure he will re-surface within a few days at a new location, IMO, likely to be stateside.

Tom has a story to tell, but may or may not wish to keep it private (and I don't know what it is). Yes, I am sure he did nothing wrong.

My recommendations--

- 1) Col's funding site is legit and highly honorable and commendable, but Tom may or may not take the funds...he certainly does NOT want people to think he asked for them;
- 2) Tom likes to use his QRZed bio page to get info across...that's the best place to monitor his travels and situation.

I am sure we all wish him safe travels and a speedy arrival at his next destination.



## DX News Briefs



Former DXCC Manager Bill Moore [NC1L](#) has been paralyzed from the neck down, since being injured in an automobile accident several years ago. He has been living at a nursing home since, and has recently been in & out of the hospital due to various medical issues. At the end of September, it was reported that he had been transferred to a hospital ICU. He has since been transferred to hospice care, and sadly is not expected to be with us much longer. Anyone who would like to send Bill a message can do so via a CareCard at St. Francis Hospital at <https://www.saintfranciscare.com/emailApatient/defaultNew.aspx> — W1RM

JAØRQV has postponed his October IOTA operation as [A35JP/p](#) from OC-123. His airline flights were cancelled. He plans to reschedule for 2017, travelling by charter boat this time — DX World

[5N/PA3TG](#) will be QRV in his spare time 2 - 20 October, primarily evenings on 20 M CW & SSB. QSL via PA3TG — DX World

3Z9DX and a team of operators should be QRV on or about 4 October as [T311KNT](#). They plan on setting up a full operational station (with antennas) as T31KNT will be left behind, and will be training local officials and others as amateurs. During their trip to Kanton Island, you may hear them at [T31T/MM](#). DX World has awarded Team T31T a grant of €1000. Anyone who wishes to donate towards the costs of the station may do so at <http://k38dom0.wixsite.com/3z9dx/t31t-kanton-isl> — NØUN

[8Q7HX](#) will be QRV 4 - 6 October, holiday style. QSL via DJ9HX — DJ9HX

[T88MZ](#) will be QRV 4 - 7 October, on HF during his spare time. QSL via JHØCKF — AF1Y

[8Q7DK](#) will be QRV 15 - 23 October, SSB & PSK. QSL via LotW — 4Z5SL

[JF1OCQ](#) will be QRV as 5W7X, and JH1BED will be QRV as 5WØST, 31 October to 9 November, all HF bands on CW SSB & RTTY. QSL via their home calls — JF1OCQ

KØAV plans to be QRV as [ZD8V](#) 21 November to 1 December, 160 - 10, including the CQ WW CW contest. QSL via KØAV — KØAV

PA2CHR & PA3FYC will be QRV as [E44CM](#) 15 - 24 November. They plan to be primarily on 2 M & 70 cm EME. More information at <http://www.qrz.com/db/E44CM> QSL via PA3FYC — PA3FYC

A group of European operators are planning a 3 week operation as [VP6EU](#) OC-044 from 16 February - 5 March 2017. The plan two stations outside of Adamstown, near the old radio station, with at least one running 24x7. More information at <http://www.pitcairn2017.de/> or send an e-mail to [dl6jgn@dlarc.de](mailto:dl6jgn@dlarc.de). QSL via DK2AMM — DL6JGN

## QSL Routes

5V7D via DL9MBI — JA1HGY  
5WØDOI via SP3DOI — KB8NW  
5WØVC via SP7VC — KB8NW  
5W9DX via 3Z9DX — KB8NW  
8P1W via KU9C — KB8NW  
9J2EP via OHØEP — W4QNW  
9MØZ via OQRS — JA1HGY  
A52LSS via JH3LSS — JA1HGY  
C37NL via C37URA — KB8NW  
CO8LY via EA7ADH — PAØWRS  
CS2A via N6TJ — KB8NW  
CY9C via LotW — WA9PIE  
E51PEN via W7YQA — K8PT  
E6AC via JF2KOZ — KB8NW  
ED9Z via EA5KB — KB8NW  
EP2A via LotW — KLØS

FG4KH via F1DUZ — KB8NW  
FT4JA via OQRS — LU2DKN  
GD4SKA via OQRS — JA1HGY  
H4ØGC via LZ1GC — KB8NW  
H44GC via LZ1GC — KB8NW  
HH2VA3MPG via VE3NLS — W3UR  
JT5FW via OQRS — JA1HGY  
JT5NH via JAØJHQ — JA1HGY  
KH7M via KH6ZM — KB8NW  
LU1ZI via LU4AA — LU2DKN  
OD5PY via KU9C — JA1HGY  
P49X via WØYK — KB7NW  
T3ØAR via 3D2AG — JA1HGY  
T88DR via JF2SDR — PT7WA  
TI5W via W4FS — KB8NW  
VKØEK via LotW — N5ZM

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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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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The Cingolani Building

300 North McKean Street, Butler PA 16001

Phone: 724-283-0653

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

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

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



For Sale: Seven (7) APC SURT 3000 XLT 4 outlet Uninterruptible Power Supplies. \$100 each, all seven for \$500

Vibroplex Bug, mid-1960's era model. From the estate of WA3BJS. \$125

Contact Chuck Mills W3YNI, [w3yni1@gmail.com](mailto:w3yni1@gmail.com)

## 3Y Bouvet Island DXpedition Team Secures Landing Permit

The **Bouvet Island DXpedition** team has announced that its permit to land on Bouvet Island for a DXpedition has been updated, revised, and approved by the Norsk Polar Institute. The **3YØZ** call sign will hit the airwaves in early 2018. Bouvet is the second most-wanted DXCC entity.

An international team of pilots has been selected to serve as an interface between the DXpedition team and the worldwide DX community.

The seasoned 20-member Bouvet Island 2018 DXpedition team will cover one-half of the venture's cost out of their own pockets and is encouraging support from the DX community for the rest.

A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a subantarctic island in the South Atlantic. The last Bouvet activation was 3YØE, during a scientific expedition over the winter of 2007-2008.



The ARRL will accept nominations until November 1st for the George Hart Distinguished Service Award. The award honors long-time ARRL Communications Manager George Hart W1NJM (SK), the chief developer of the National Traffic System.

Nominations should thoroughly document the nominee's lifetime activities and achievements with the ARRL Field Organization. Nominees are expected to have at least 15 years of distinguished service.

**Submit** nominations and related supporting material and letters of recommendation via e-mail to or USPS mail to ARRL Field Organization Team Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

## FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 — The FCC has updated its **Public Notice** on Amateur Radio operation in European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (**CEPT**) countries that have adopted certain recommendations regarding the US. The updated notice, in English, German, and French, includes some additional countries where operation is permitted. Licensees operating in CEPT countries must have a copy of the **Public Notice**, proof of US citizenship, and evidence of an FCC Amateur Radio license grant. These must be shown to "proper authorities" upon request.

Subject to regulations in force in the country visited, a US citizen holding an FCC General, Advanced, or Amateur Extra Class Amateur Radio license grant "is authorized to utilize temporarily an Amateur Station in a [CEPT] country that has implemented certain recommendations with respect to the United States," according to the notice.

Advanced or Amateur Extra class operators are granted CEPT Radio Amateur License privileges, in accordance with CEPT **Recommendation T/R 61-01** (as amended). General class operators are granted CEPT Novice Radio Amateur License privileges, in accordance with ECC **Recommendation (05)06** (as amended).

CEPT countries participating in CEPT **Recommendation T/R 61-01** as of September 16, 2016, are Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland, and the Faroe Islands), Estonia, Finland, France (including Corsica, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, St Bartholomew, St Pierre and Miquelon, St Martin, Reunion and its Dependencies, Mayotte, French Antarctica, French Polynesia and Clipperton, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom (including Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man).

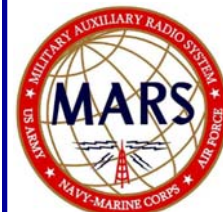
CEPT countries participating in ECC **Recommendation (05)06** as of September 16, 2016 are Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland, and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

Information regarding countries participating in CEPT **Recommendation T/R 61-01** and **Recommendation (05)06** after September 16, 2016 is available from the European Communications Office (**ECO**).

The **Public Notice** includes complete details. For more information, contact **Scot Stone**, FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, (202) 418-0638.

An Amateur Radio-military interoperability exercise will take place October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The event will begin at 1200 UTC on October 31<sup>st</sup> and continue through 2359 UTC on November 1<sup>st</sup> on 60 meter channels 1-4 — 5.3305 MHz, 5.3465 MHz, 5.357 MHz, and 5.3715 MHz, respectively.



During this exercise, military stations will attempt to make radio contact with stations in as many of the 3007 US counties as possible.

Radio amateurs providing "county status" information will receive a US Department of Defense "interoperability QSL card."

For more information, **contact** the Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS).

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@yahoo.com](mailto:wa3sh-subscribe@yahoo.com) and the automation should take care of the rest!

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**



## 161, Al and Mae

Ron Notarius W3WN

So, we come home from an event a few weeks back, and on our answering machine is a message. It's a Radiogram being delivered.

The next day, coming home from work, there's a second message, from a different traffic handler. Same Radiogram.

These got me to thinking...

It seems almost an afterthought these days. There was a time when one of the largest everyday activities on the Amateur Bands was handling traffic. Traffic as in messages on behalf of others (ie 3rd Parties) being passed from one Amateur to another, until they got delivered to the intended recipient. Relaying messages is where the ARRL got its start, over 100 years ago — and is where the "Relay" in ARRL comes from.

It seems almost quaint to handle traffic these days. It was one thing in the days when telegrams were expensive; routine long distance phone calls were rare, expensive, and sometimes tough to pre-arrange; when many households had no telephone, or shared a party line with others. The explosion of the Personal Digital Assistant, in one form or another — in other words, your Smartphone — in the last decades, along with email, the Internet, message and bulleting boards, online forums... you get the idea... has made traffic handling near obsolete, and reduced it to a fraction of what it once was.

This was inevitable. Having an HT on your belt that could make a phone patch on the local repeater was a big deal, to hams and non-hams alike, in the 1970's & 80's. Now everyone has the functional equivalent — and most repeaters no longer need or even have a phone patch. So what was once our near exclusive bailiwick (from a civilian standpoint, at least) is close to universal. "If everyone is super... no one is!" (Syndrome, the villain in *The Incredibles*)

Does that mean traffic handling has or should disappear from Amateur Radio? No. Even in a lessened role, knowing how to properly, clearly, and concisely receive a message and pass it along the chain to the next station is important.

But there are issues. For example, why did I get two copies of the message? One came from a ham near Philadelphia; another came from a ham located a little over an hour drive away. The Philly station, who has delivered messages before, delights in delivering messages. While that's good, the problem is that he's bypassing the National Traffic System. Messages intended for Western PA should pass through the WPA traffic nets, not the EPA ones. By constantly grabbing and bypassing the system, he may be stroking his ego and thinking himself a hero — but he is also starving the other traffic nets, and the other traffic handlers, of messages. If there is no traffic to handle, potential operators get no practice — but do get bored, and eventually, give up and leave. That benefits no one.

The problem with the other gentleman is essentially the same issue, just at a local level. There are many traffic handlers who live in or near Allegheny County. Was there no one closer available, to pass the message on? I'd like to have asked him, but he left no contact information on the answering machine. Which leads to another issue — asking if there's a reply, and passing it back on. Again, the system starves without traffic. Such an easy opportunity to generate a message... missed.

Obviously, receiving the message twice is a problem too. Did not our "hero" know that this message had been passed into the WPA nets? By not paying attention, by trying to be the hero, he made both himself and the other op look somewhat foolish. It makes us look like we don't have our act together.

That all said, it's been many, many years since I was the WPA STM, and have been home at the right times for the evening WPA nets. (Life in general and families in particular do have a nasty habit of getting in the way.) This incident did get me thinking about traffic, the ARRL's National Traffic System, and the one-time independent traffic system run through the long-gone all-day Intercontinental Traffic Net on 14.300 MHz, and the state-wide Pennsylvania Phone Net (PFN) that met on 75 phone every late afternoon. It got me reminiscing about the "glory days" in the K3CR shack, playing a part in passing hundreds of messages for students before Thanksgiving, Christmas, and especially Valentine's Day. (While not strictly kosher, also thinking of all the years that club officer's made their pitch to Student Government for funds for the next year, bringing in the year's worth of several thousand messages — all written on paper — and being able to say "See! Look at all the free messages we sent on behalf of the student body, and all the money we saved them!" And yes, we usually got most of the money we asked for)

Which got me remembering Al & Mae Burke, W3VR and W3CUL respectively.

Al & Mae were very active amateurs in the Philadelphia area for decades, until they retired and moved to Seminole, Florida. In their later years, they both spent hours every day passing traffic. Many traffic handlers through the 1990's, until Mae passed, will remember every year, the thousands of messages originating from W3CUL at the Florida State Fair. Even if you didn't already know by heart the common ARL abbreviations, once you started handling messages from W3CUL, you quickly learned ARL FIFTY, ARL FORTY SIX, and ARL SEVEN. (Don't know them? "Greetings by Amateur Radio", "Greetings on your birthday and best wishes for many more", and "Please reply via Amateur Radio through the amateur delivering this message. This is a free public service.")

The ARRL awarded the 1997 International Humanitarian Award to the Burkes for their lifetime contribution to the art and public service of traffic handling. In their days, they probably handled over a three quarters of a million messages, and more likely more.

Interested? You can learn more about Mae at <http://hamgallery.com/gsl/country/USA/Florida/w3cul.htm>

We could use a few more people with their dedication. Ones like them may never come along again... and they should not be forgotten.

You know, I think I'll check into a WPA traffic net this weekend. It's been a while.

...by the way, do you know why they signed all their messages "161, Al and Mae" instead of a routine 73? If not, just do a little subtraction.

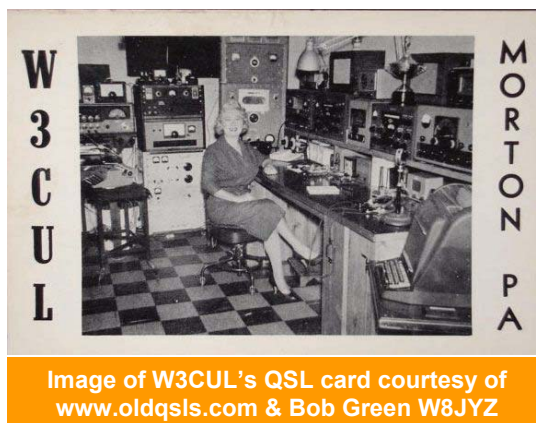
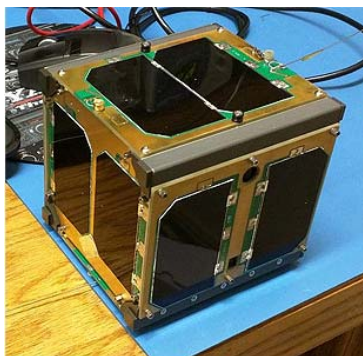


Image of W3CUL's QSL card courtesy of [www.oldqsls.com](http://www.oldqsls.com) & Bob Green W8JYZ



## RadFxSat/Fox 1B Launch Set for March 2017

AMSAT News Service

Washington, DC, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 — AMSAT has announced that the launch of RadFxSat/Fox-1B has been rescheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

RadFxSat will ride as one of the NASA Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNa) XIV secondary payloads aboard the NASA Joint Polar Satellite System-1 (JPSS-1) launch on a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Delta II rocket from Vandenberg AFB in California.

The RadFxSat mission is a partnership with Vanderbilt Institute for Space and Defense Electronics (ISDE) that will study space radiation effects on commercial off-the-shelf memory.

The experiments are carried aboard the AMSAT Fox-1B CubeSat, and experiment data will be transmitted via the sub-audible telemetry stream of the Fox-1B FM repeater along with the CubeSat telemetry data. The telemetry can be decoded and displayed with the AMSAT *FoxTelem* software



# WACOM HAMFEST 2016

## Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington PA

Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Setup at 6:30 AM

Talk-In on 146.790 (No PL)

Vendors contact: Bud Plants N3TIR

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

Or WACOM, c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ, 236

Chambers Ridge Rd, West Alexandria PA  
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*The sale of illegal amplifiers or Adult Material  
is strictly prohibited*



First Prize: Yaesu FT-DX1200 HF + 6 Meter Multi-Mode Transceiver  
Second Prize: Yaesu FT-2900R/E 75 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver  
Third Prize: Yaesu FT-2900R/E 75 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver  
Fourth Prize: Yaesu FT-3100R 65 W 2 Meter FM Mobile Transceiver

### Main Prize Drawing at 1 PM

Winner Need Not Be Present To Win

Black Box:

What is it? It's a Mystery!

— Only 50 Tickets Sold! —

### Yaesu Factory Reps with Display Models!

VE Testing starting at 8:00 AM

Breakfast & Lunch Will Be Available

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

## AT&T's New "AirGig" Not Your Father's BPL

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 — Recalling the earlier efforts of the FCC and telecommunications and utility interests to roll out "Broadband over Powerline" (BPL), the Amateur Radio community has been buzzing with questions about AT&T's just-announced "AirGig" BPL plan to make broadband available via apparently similar technology. ARRL's earlier anti-BPL campaign, and market forces, eventually led to the demise of the prior BPL initiative. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who spearheaded the earlier effort to quantify BPL's threat to Amateur Radio's HF spectrum and remains the resident expert on the subject, said this newest BPL incarnation should *not* pose an interference issue for radio amateurs.

"This technology uses millimeter-wave RF signals (30 GHz to 300 GHz) coupled onto the surface of power lines to transmit the signal along the line with relatively low losses," Hare explained. "After looking at this technology, it looks nothing like the type of HF and VHF BPL that caused us so many problems years ago. The sky is not falling."

Hare added that it is not likely that the AT&T technology will even use Amateur Radio bands, so there is little reason for concern even among those amateurs who use spectrum above 24 GHz.

According to AT&T's September 20 announcement, the company is "deep in the experimentation phase" of the developing technology, which it says would be "easier to deploy than fiber, can run over license-free spectrum, and can deliver ultra-fast wireless connectivity to any home or handheld wireless device." AT&T said its initial — and continuing — testing at AT&T outdoor facilities "has been positive," and initial field trials are set to begin in 2017.

Hare said the technique of putting RF signals onto the surface of conductors is not new. An [article](#) by Glenn Elmore, N6GN, and John Watrous, K6PZB, appeared in the May/June issue of QEX, describing the technique. In January 1953, the *Proceedings of the IRE* featured an article by C. E. Sharp and G. Goubau, "A UHF Surface-Wave Transmission Line," and the *Radio Amateurs VHF Manual 11th edition* introduced the technique to amateurs in 1968.

Hare said the League will keep an eye and ear out for interference problems, but he believes that the frequencies involved and the fact that these signals should not propagate far from the lines will pose little risk the Amateur Radio Service.

"So far, industry has not found a way to reliably put broadband signals on wires intended to carry power frequencies," he said. "The technical difficulties of trying to use wiring not designed to carry RF signals [and] connected to all sorts of noisy loads, other conductors and even splices that are major discontinuities at these frequencies will probably prove to be quite the technical challenge. ARRL is interested in seeing all technology succeed, but its vested interest is in the interference potential of new technologies. Fortunately, in this case, there is little likelihood of interference."







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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!

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Please make all checks payable to:  
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# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

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(check quarter \_\_\_\_\_) →

(check one ) ↓

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<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

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[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  
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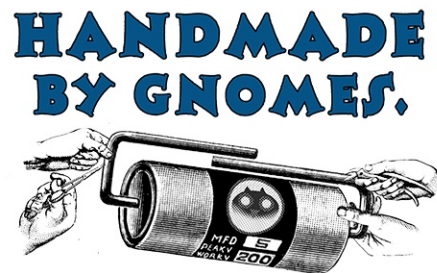


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**Arghh!**  
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?





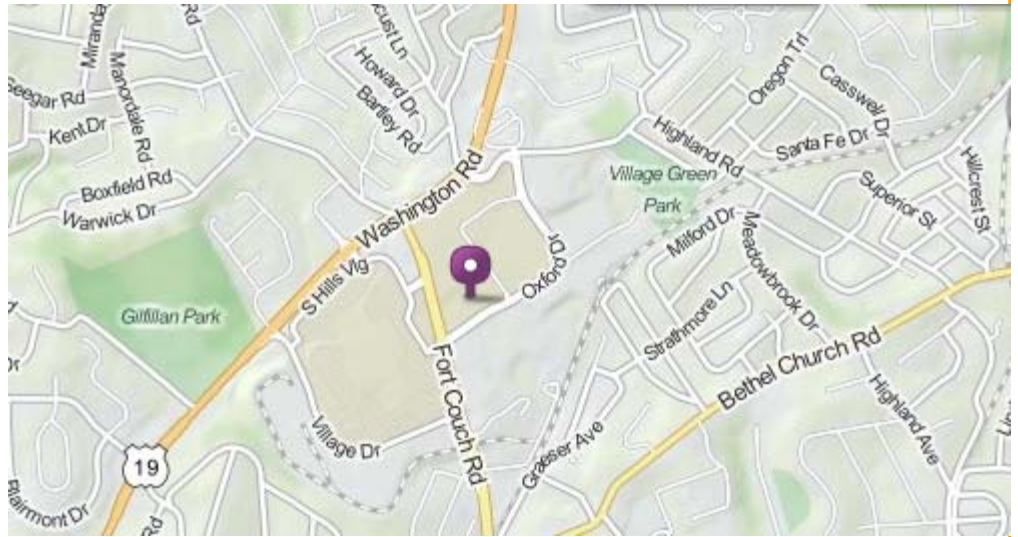
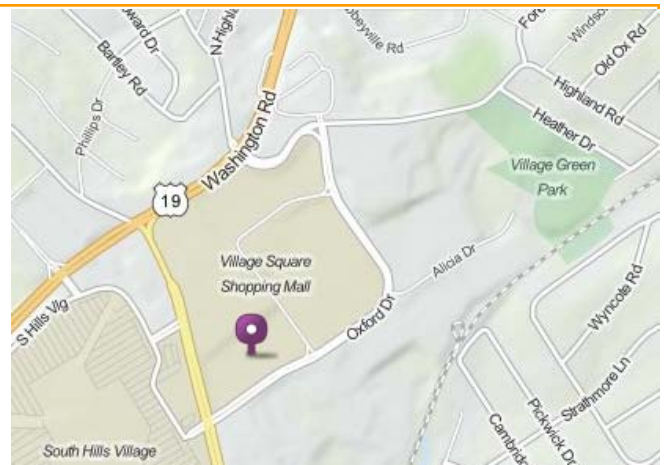
# 2016 WASH Meeting

## 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

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