



WASHRAGTM



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 11
NOVEMBER 2016

Wireless Association of South Hills

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2016

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, November 3rd, 2016

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, November 3rd 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.

Elections for 2017 Club Officers will take place at the meeting! Other meeting topics will include Pa QSO wrap-up, WACOM Hamfest, other club plans & upcoming events for 2016 & 2017, and more. See you there!

Cover Photo: The Hex Beam used at N3ZK Armstrong County in the 2016 Pennsylvania QSO Party. The view behind isn't too shabby either! PaQP results and pictures start on Page 7!

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2016 Frank Bobro N3FB

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)**, a 501 C 3 not for profit organization.

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 26th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 26th, 2017, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFEST 2017**, 3735 Buffalo Drive (Home Economics Building), South Park PA 15129. 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 at n3sh dot org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh dot 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: Remaining Dates TBA

Carol's Comments



Just a reminder that the annual WACOM Hamfest is the Sunday after the meeting, on November 6th. If you have anything to sell, the club will have two tables this year.

We had a very good time at Clarion for the Pa. QSO Party. We used W3WH as our call, and got a clean sweep. Bill, Larry, Harold, Richie and I had a lot of fun.

It is election time for President and Secretary at the November 3rd meeting, so please try to make it.

Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving.

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

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

If you participated in the 2016 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), the Boy Scouts are strongly requesting that you file a [JOTA Station Report](#), so that they can try and determine how things went.

Reports are due on November 1st, and every station that files a report will be entered into a drawing for an ICOM ID-51A Plus HT.

Saturday, October 29th, was a warm day for an October morning, which Ye Editor appreciated as he was finally able to join up with **the WASH Breakfast Gang** for the first time in several months, at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg. In attendance as well this month were WB4GCS, W3WH, K3HCR, KB3JHR, N3IDH, N3FB and KB3GMU. Along with hot coffee, circulating around the table were topics including remembering "The Biltmore" in Ashville NC & the AC/DC concerns with exposed equipment ("No, we took it out of service years ago!"), SDR radio up & running, Plasma TV RFI affecting 160 meters, Power Line noise, the World Series, Pa QSO Party Results, the FCC's new privacy rules (and whether or not they'll actually enforce them), breaking two TV "breaking news" trucks during November Ratings season, fish tanks, moving trees and climbing towers, and wondering if anyone's heard lately from Doctor John or Paul in the USVI lately.

Hope to see you and the rest of the Gang post-Black Friday on Saturday, November 26th, 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!

Glad to hear that our two groups (yes Randy, we still like you) did so well in the annual **Pennsylvania QSO Party**. Both groups achieved Clean Sweeps, and both groups had a great time. We've heard that others did well, as well. If we get any more articles or pictures, you'll see them next month. Along with pictures and such from the **upcoming WACOM hamfest**, and we hope to see you there as well. Remember that Carol KB3GMN has secured TWO tables for use by club members, if you only have a handful of items to move on to new homes. (**You still have to pay admission, it's not covered with the club able rental** — just FYI)

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.

Please don't forget that the November meeting is our **annual election night for next year's club officers**. Up this year are President (1 year term) and VP/Secretary (2 year term). With our now 501 C 3 status comes greater responsibilities. Well, OK, not really that much more (just being a touch dramatic) — but, we do have to strictly follow the rules. So if there is any one meeting that you (as a member) must come to for the year, this one is it. We really do hope to see you all there!

With the WACOM hamfest comes the close of the 2016 hamfest season in WPA. Which 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? Well, time has a habit of sneaking up on you!

Speaking of which we should have the **2017 Rules for the Simplex Contest** in next month's newsletter, and we should have more information on the hamfest as well — by the way, the main prizes have been picked, see Page 16.

Check into **WASHNET** lately?

WASHNet NCS Schedule

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
11/28/2016	Larry K3VX	01/23/2017	TBA
12/05/2016	Mike WA3PYU	01/30/2017	TBA
12/12/2016	Rick KB3IAC	02/06/2017	TBA
12/19/2016	Digital Net	02/13/2017	Digital Net
12/26/2016	Bill W3WH	02/20/2017	TBA

Indicates Swap Net After the Regular Net

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

Minutes, October 6th Meeting

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

Bill W3WH, substituting for Carol KB3GMN, called the meeting to order at 19:10 hours. 14 members and 0 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 Ben KB3ERQ, second by Larry K3VX, passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read. Motion by Ron W3WN, second by Harold K3HCR to accept. Passed unanimously.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): Next test session will be at WPXI on October 20th. VE's needed as always. We have 2 candidates pre-registered. Thanks again to WPXI for the use of their community room for testing this year, & to N3FB for making the arrangements. Next VE Exam will be in February at **WASHFest**, rest of 2017 exams to be scheduled.

Repeaters (N3FB): No report.

WASHNet (KC3ELA): No report.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): Upcoming events in the newsletter. Pa QSO is this weekend (October 8th & 9th). 5 club members going to Clarion County. Bonus station is W3UU. KE7FD had a question about available software; N3FJP and N1MM have "free" software available for the contest.

WASHFest 2017 (KB3GMN): No report.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): No report, since Carol is out of town today.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KB3GMN via W3WH): Prep for **WASHFest 2017** will begin next month. We will have a table at the WACOM Hamfest next month for use by club members.

Old Business: None

New Business: Rick KB3IAC reported that as of September 16th, we are officially approved as an IRS 501(C.3). It was noted that with the status, Larry was refunded by the County 50% of renal fees for the 2017 Field Day site. We will also get a discount from Taylor Rentals for the cost of renting tables for **WASHFest**

Remaining items related to this:

- We have yet to file for PA state exempt status. Then we need to file a change of address, as we can't use a PO Box to file, though we can change it back afterwards.
- The Secretary will need to keep a log of everyone we give a 501(C.3) for to, in case we are ever audited.
- We need to have & maintain an official Minutes book, going back to at least the first of the year
- We need to publish the minutes of club meetings at least 2 weeks in advance of the next meeting, in order to be able to skip the reading of the minutes at next meeting.

Bill W3WH thanked Rick on behalf of the club for all of his hard work and efforts to obtain us the 501(c.3) status (applause)

Nominations for 2017 Club Officers:

Motion by Larry K3VX to nominate Rick KB3IAC for President. Second by Glen KE7FD. Rick declined. Motion by Bill W3WH to nominate Glen KE7FD for President. Second by Ben KB3ERQ.

Motion by Larry K3VX to nominate Ben KB3ERQ for VP/Secretary. Second by Rich N1NCZ.

Motion to close nominations by Ron W3WN, second by Mark N3RDV. Carried.

Good of the Order: Glen KE7FD discussed donating coupons for "Free" Harbor Freight items for hamfest grab bags; he will collect the coupons. He also displayed his "Altoid Rockmite" QRP radio and tuner.

Larry K3VX has 15 4 foot fiberglass poles to give away.

Motion to Adjourn by Larry K3VX, second by Glen KE7FD and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19:52.

WASH Spotlight: VE Exam



We had two candidates at the October 20th VE Exam session. Congratulations to Bill Semethy Jr. K3YEB (left) of Forest Hills., who upgraded to Amateur Extra; and to Andrew Morsillo KC3IAR (right) of Munhall, who earned his Technician Class license, and missed his General by 1 answer!

Thanks to VE's Frank N3FB, Chuck N3UUZ and Glen KE7FD who so generously gave their evening to the exams, and to WPXI for again providing their Community Room for our use.

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at newsletter@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	W3KTW	W4ZE	WASH TN	AB3KA
AE3DL	KC3HIK	W3LE	WASH NE	K3OL	K3EED
K3HCR	KC3HNU	W3VFA	N0PEU	KE3XB	K3LIE
K3SGT	KC4WTT	W3WH	WASH OR	N3YPB	KA3NMG
K3VX	KE7FD	W3WN	N0VLR	WASH TX	KB3ENX
KA3VXM	KI5ZT	W4CKR	N0WVP	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 2nd, 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

November 3 rd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting & 2017 Elections	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
November 5 th – 7 th	ARRL Sweepstakes CW	http://www.arrl.org
November 6 th	WACOM Hamfest	http://www.wacomarc.org
November 12 th – 19 th	ARRL Sweepstakes Phone	http://www.arrl.org
November 26 th – 27 th	CQ WW DX Contest CW	http://www.cqww.com
December 1 st	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
December 2 nd – 4 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 10 th – 11 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 17 th – 18 th	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	http://www.kkn.net/stew/
December 31 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
January 14 th	<i>WASH</i> 2 M Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
January 21 st	Breezeshooter's Groundwave PSK	http://www.breezeshooters.net
January 27 th -29 th	CQ 160 Meter Contest CW	http://www.cq160.com
February 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
February 11 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave CW	http://www.breezeshooters.net
February 18 th -19 th	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 26 th	<i>WASHFest 2017</i>	New Location! Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park
February 26 th	<i>WASH</i> VE Exam	
March 4 th -5 th	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 11 th	Breezeshooter's Groundwave SSB	http://www.breezeshooters.net
March 25 th — 26 th	CQ WPX Contest SSB	http://www.cqwpix.org
May 27 th — 28 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	http://www.cqwpix.org

"Seen" at the September Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN



N3SH Pa QSO 2016 Bill Hill W3WH

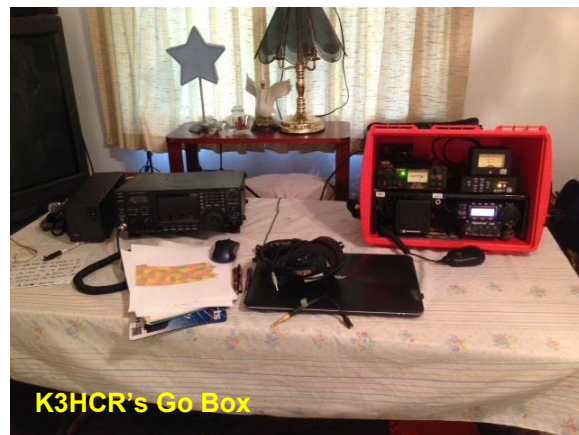
For the past several years Larry K3VX ,Harold K3HCR and I have been operating the PA QSO PARTY from various counties. We've been to Armstrong, Mercer, and Franklin, Fulton doing a County Line entry and last year to Fayette at the Heritage Scout Reservation with Rick Bell and Gary. If nothing else, we've been consistently one or two Counties short of a clean sweep. Frustrating to say the least. Throughout this period Carol KB3GMN and Richie N3SBF have been achieving clean sweeps except for last year when they missed Locoming County. Also throughout this period Carol has been telling me that we should come to their camp in Clarion and we would get the Clean Sweep.

Well she was right. This year Larry, Harold and I accepted their invitation and went to Clarion. Their camp sits on several acres in the middle of a fairly isolated wooded area in Vowinkel, Pa., which is near Cook's Forest. They have a 160 meter G5RV and a large horizontal loop antenna permanently installed and they work very well. We added Harold's Off Center Fed Dipole and my CrankIR vertical to round out the antenna farm. Of course our perennial nemesis at Field Day and other events is stations interfering with each other due to their proximity. This year we tried to separate the antennas as much as possible and we used common mode chokes. After a few tries we seemed to achieve isolation from each other by using a recipe of chokes, distance and combining horizontal and vertical polarization. Hallelujah!

We arrived in Clarion on Friday and got set up so by Saturday morning we were relaxed and ready to go all out for a clean sweep. We used Richie and Carol's IC 756 Pro 11. Harold's go box for multiplier hunting and Bill's IC-7300. All the equipment and antennas worked very well. Larry worked several Europeans and even a VK (Australia) in the contest. Sunday morning before the contest restarted I worked T31T, Central Kiribati out in the Pacific on 40 CW.

By the end of Saturday we needed 5 more Counties for the sweep. Everybody operated but of course Carol was the driving force of our effort and it paid off. She got our last County (Perry) @ 1:25 Sunday afternoon. We had a loud celebration to say the very least. It feels so good to finally get the sweep. We had about 600 QSO's, of which most were SSB. That's an unusual result since usually we have more CW QSO's than phone. Not that we care- Whatever it takes.

What's in store for all of us next year? I don't think anyone knows but I'm certain we will all give it another shot next October as I hope more of you will. It is definitely worth your time to get in this friendly event. Clear your calendars and don't miss it



K3HCR's Go Box



W3WH at the Key

Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2016 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR

Stacked Antennas: A Postscript

James A. Sanford WB4GCS, P.E.

Some months back, I wrote about the importance of stacked antennas being pointed identically and driven elements being co-planar. I wrote about how I built jigs, wood-working style, to make things identical. The article included photos of the work, but nothing about the results.

Well, today, the grass was too wet to mow the hill, so I worked on another project – assembling the 902 and 1296 MHz arrays.

Although difficult to see in any of the photos I took, the booms are co-planar and the driven elements are co-planar. I am very pleased with the results.

Now, to get this in the air and radios hooked to it



Photos courtesy of & © Copyright
2016 James A. Sanford WB4GCS

My PA QSO Party Multi-Operator Multi-Radio Experience

Frank Bobro N3FB

My first PA QSO party was in 2002. It was a single day, two county line effort with a total of 6 operators from the WASH club. I discovered the 'friendly' contest and became hooked. Until that day, I did not know how many counties there were in Pennsylvania. Now I know that there are 67, I can name them and have a general idea of where they are located.

I'll take just a brief moment to describe the contest; Pennsylvania operators attempt to contact as many other amateur radio operators as you can that are participating during the designated time periods. Each exchange of serial number and county or ARRL section counts as one **QSO**. Each unique county or ARRL section counts as a **Multiplier**. Your score is calculated by multiplying the QSOs by the Multipliers. For bragging rights, you want to contact at least one amateur in each of the 67 counties; this is known as a "clean sweep". You also want to contact at least one amateur in each section of the US and Canada. The contest starts Saturday at noon, there is a rest period from 1AM until 9 AM and it concludes at 6PM Sunday.

Except for two years, I have participated in this contest in a multi-operator multi-radio operation. This has many challenges. Being an in-state contest, there are usually only two amateur radio bands that are useful at any given time of day. With multiple radios in close proximity to each other, this can create quite a bit of self-induced interference.

Our team was becoming annoyed by self-induced interference and, after a few years, I decided to make an attempt to remove as much of it as I could using some basic engineering practices. I decided that each year I was going to try only one thing that I thought would help. Then, I would make observations as to its usefulness.

In 2014, I decided to take on proper grounding. I needed a system that could be easily installed and removed, was adaptable in its deployment and was simple. I purchased an 8 foot ground rod and shortened it to 6 feet – mostly so that it would fit in my car but also realizing that if you had that much rod in the ground, it was not coming back out at the end of the day. To this ground rod I mounted a copper "L" bracket with 4 type N barrels so that our antennas could be grounded at this common point. I added a #2 gauge welding cable pig tail with a high current power pole connection. Then I made some #2 gauge welding cable jumpers, 15 and 20 feet in length. Finally, I built a common ground buss with wing nuts and another power pole pig tail. We used this in our Forest County operation. It was far easier to deploy than other grounding systems that we had been using. To extract the grounding rod, I used a 1960's bumper jack to remove it from the earth. This was a successful first attempt, and our team achieved a record from Forest County. You might even say we were – wait for it – "well grounded."

2015 was my first year to attempt some RF black magic – ferrites. I had been reading about common mode interference. The simple explanation is that the RF from your antenna is reflected onto the shield of the coax cable and brought into the operating location causing interference. If you can remove or 'choke' this stray RF and keep it away from your operating location, you will have made a difference. I did a lot of researching and reading on the subject. A good source was "A Ham's Guide to RFI, Ferrites, Baluns, and Audio Interfacing" Revision 5a by Jim Brown K9Y. I also read and decided that the article titled "Excellent, Easy, Cheap Common-Mode Chokes" by Chuck Counselman W1HS, was going to be my plan. I built two of these chokes and tried them in the contest. In 2014 I had other stations getting into my radio with no antenna connected. This common mode choke eliminated that problem.

I also made some power distribution boxes. These consisted of a plug that had LEDs that would show proper polarity and grounding with green indicators, a 10 amp AC line filter and a quad outlet box. I made one for each operating location. With both of these "black magic" devices in play I believed that I had a second success, and our team had another record score from Indiana County. Over the winter, I made a few more of the chokes and some PVC enclosures. This served to protect them and make them easier to deploy.

2016 - this was the year of the single band antenna. The club's Field Day effort and filter issues got me thinking that multi band antennas may not be the best choice for this contest. My thought was that single band antennas would be the first stage of a "filter" attenuating out of band signals. This would be followed by a bandpass filter. We would need two antennas for each band. The reason - one antenna orientated for North South operations and the other for East West. I built the antennas for 40 and 80 meters, the bread and butter bands of the contest. I also constructed 4:1 baluns for the antennas using both type 43 and 31 ferrite material. The 31 material is best suited for the lower RF frequencies while 43 is the material typically used for ham radio. I saw no noticeable difference between the two in this test; they both performed well.

These antennas made a difference! We were able to operate closer to each other than ever before and if we were willing to stay far apart on 80 meters, the CW and voice stations had only marginal interference – on the same band!!! I also expanded the common mode choke lessons from the previous year installing one on the vertical antenna. After reading the manual on the hex beam, I built a ferrite choke using 6 type 73 ferrites as described by the manufacturer. All of these improvements made a difference. We also had a few firsts. The first year that we worked all 67 counties on the first day and we also beat the county record on the first day.

Thoughts for 2017 – antenna placement. We have always just put the antennas in the air. Yes, we did think about it for a few minutes, but not much more than that. What if we made the operating position the "center" of the operation? Then, go to one side of that position with some antennas, and the other side with opposite polarity antennas. We should take some time to locate the antennas and also consider what antenna will be the last one on the air. The contest has been slow for us the last few hours but the final hour is always busy. So, we could start the disassembly during the 'slow' time and then come back for some new contacts during the busy time.

Something else that I have been pondering is a receiving loop antenna located far enough from the transmitting antennas to allow simultaneous operation on the same band. So much to learn about for next year!



November 3 ZuluWatt (I'll Explain Later)

Paul Lusardi NØVLR

As the summer ends and the first signs of fall begin, I can most assuredly get a phone call from my good friend Randy, N3ZK indicating to me how many days it is until PA QSO. This banter continues until the day before the contest. It has become a tradition that I somehow operate in the contest. The last 2 years I racked up a whopping 23 contacts from 7-land (Oregon). This of course was unacceptable.... So this year, I decided to join in on the party in 3-land. I don't often get that opportunity – but a little negotiating with the home-boss and the work-boss yielded a “yes” - microseconds later I called SouthWest airlines and I was committed!

Planning

No good deed goes unpunished – I had to work remotely for a few days and then I could have some fun time.

OK, time to get serious about planning and packing.....I had recently completed the 2nd go box which was considerably lighter and smaller than revision 1 back in 2007 and decided that it needed to take the trip.

The go box contained an IC-706 MkIIIG with USB CAT control, a Signalink USB (I love this thing), LDG Tuner, headset/mic and footswitch. This box needs 12V and ground - Frank, N3FB assured me that he could provide that, along with antenna and feedline.

Frank, Randy, and I all arrived at the location in Armstrong County to begin setting up. I look at the massive amount of coax, rope and antennas in the back of Randy's truck; he looks at me and says ...it's ALL going up in the air.... The look on my face was “when does the bucket truck and climbing crew arrive?” We spent the better part of Friday like this: Frank launched a line over a tree with his trusty tennis ball launcher, then Randy tied rope, and I pulled it over – repeat about 15 times. We looked back at the finished product and I was amazed to see 7 wire antennas in the air, covering all contest bands! The massive amount of rope, coax and wire antennas was now 30 feet in the air....almost magically, the 70 degree and sunny day that we have been enjoying turned to rain the minute the last coax was run to the shack.

After a well-needed steak dinner in Clarion and a trip to “Ye Old liquid refreshment stores”, we tested the radios and the year-long prep-work and planning on Frank's part to eliminate inter-station noise was paying off as inter-bands were operating with minimal issues – Huh? I look at Frank and he gives me an “I love it when a plan comes together” smile.

Contest time!

The relaxed environment of kidding around amongst brotherly friends now turned team-spirited competition....game on! I started on 40 phone, Randy on 20M gathering section multipliers, and Frank pounding out CW on 80. I was having a blast!

EVERY station we heard thanked us for activating a most difficult county for many. I had a noontime run of 106 contacts in the first hour. Woo hoo!

Taking a break

OK time to eat – crock pots and a couple of coolers provided contest “man-food” for the weekend. We all took a short break when Jim WB4GCS arrived and looked up in the trees and said he was impressed at the efforts and thought put into this temporary contest station.

Stepping up the game

As the day wore on into night we were all keenly aware that the county count was over 60 and we looked at each other and said “hey, what is our record for county counts on Saturday?”....we all knew what we wanted to do..... Get all 67 before bed time.....game on again!

This old owl – still suffering jet lag had to turn inMoments later....you'd think someone won the Powerball..... The last county, Sullivan was logged – an all-time record achieved for the team this day – all 67 accounted for - going into Sunday morning.

Sunday was a slow start on the bands – cross-contesting with AZ QSO party and such.... Looking at the score board for the team, we were approaching our goal score of 130k, and then looked at our watches and together we said...“we got this”.

By the end of the contest (sorry guys I had to leave early due to work commitments and early AM flight) we had finished up with 149k points with a clean sweep of all 67 counties and 60 of the 83 sections. My only disappointment was I couldn't snag my own OR section. In fact there was an oddity about the missing sections – no CA stations were contacted....that will need to be corrected next year for sure.

Great experience

Joining a well-oiled team that Frank and Randy have anchored over the years, was a highlight in my ham radio career of 24 years. It will not be forgotten, and I hope it can be repeated. Friends in this hobby are special, even though miles separate us; it was like no time had gone by when we all got together and worked as a team; socializing and working together on a common goal.

Oh yeah. The title of this story pays tribute to the early days working from Venango county when the margarita blender was whirring t-h-r-o-u-g-h-o-u-t the day and I was starting to get a little parched from calling CQ – so naturally, drink more.....and so it goes, Randy's callsign was shortened (and a bit slurred) to “November 3 Zulu-Watt” which became an iconic saying, and thanks to Harold, K3HCR, bequeathing the slogan “you guys really put the ‘party’ in QSO party” – which then became part of our team t-shirts.

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Paul Lusardi NØVLR



The Go Box V2



Selfie — With a Surprise Visitor!

NØVLR, WB4GCS, N3FB, N3ZK

N3FB Pa QSO Experience — continued from Page 8

This is a fun contest. You don't need to do any of the things I outlined above to participate. You only need a radio. I am fortunate to have a good group of friends that operate in this contest each year. They also help try some of these experiments.

The core group is Randy N3ZK, Kevin N3KFD, and Paul NØVLR. I am Frank N3FB. We operate on Randy's call sign. Paul has made the trip across the country to operate from PA a few times since he has moved to Oregon. Others stop by in person and on the radio to make it a memorable experience. I hope that you would consider getting on the air and joining us in October.

All photos in this article (pages 8 & 9) are courtesy of and © Copyright 2011, 2016 Frank Bobro N3FB

Additional Photos From N3ZK/Armstrong on Page 10



The Core Group of 4 from 2011
N3KFD, N3FB, N3ZK, NØVLR

Rule Making Petition to FCC Calls for Vanity Call Sign Rules Changes

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 27th, 2016 — The FCC is inviting comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11775](#)) from a Nevada radio amateur that seeks changes to the rules governing the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Program. Christopher LaRue W4ADL, of North Las Vegas, is proposing that any licensee obtaining a vanity call sign be required to keep it for the full license term. LaRue contends in his petition that excessive and frequent vanity call sign filings are hampering the ability of other qualified licensees to obtain vanity call signs in one of the more desirable 1 × 2 or 2 × 1 formats. LaRue said that since the FCC dropped the fee to file for a vanity call sign, some applicants are taking advantage by regularly obtaining new call signs, thereby keeping them out of circulation.



"Some are changing call signs almost monthly, just to keep the newer code-free Extra class operators from obtaining a shorter call sign," he said in his petition. "I even saw an older operator that said he does it all the time and has not even owned a radio in over 6 years. When I looked him up, he has had 16 different [call signs] in 18 months."

LaRue said his proposed minor rule change would require any licensee applying for and obtaining an Amateur Radio vanity call sign "be required to keep it for the duration of the license, which is currently 10 years."

He said this would "alleviate a lot of the stress on the ULS system and manpower requirements" at the FCC. "It will also keep inactive amateurs from changing call signs regularly, thereby tying up call signs for 2 years after dismissal of said call."

Interested parties may comment using the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)). Comments are due within 30 days of the October 26th posting date.

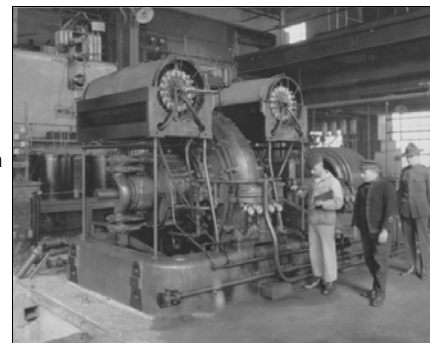
Antenna Fire Puts SAQ Alexanderson Alternator Station Off the Air

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 18th, 2016 — An early October [fire](#) in the SAQ [Alexanderson alternator](#) long-wave antenna is under investigation by the Grimeton World Heritage Foundation, which owns and manages the station in Grimeton, Sweden. The fire, attributed to arcing, was quickly extinguished, and no injuries occurred. The Foundation said that determining the extent of damage and completing repairs could take a while.

"There is a risk that the incident will affect the planned transmissions with the long-wave transmitter SAQ for some time to come," a Foundation announcement said. The fire kept SAQ off the air for a scheduled [UN Day](#) transmission on October 24th. SAQ, which operates on 17.2 kHz, also typically schedules transmissions on Christmas Eve and other occasions.

Dating from the 1900s, the Alexanderson alternator — essentially an ac generator run at extremely high speed — can put out 200 kW but typically is operated at less than one-half that power level. Once providing reliable transatlantic communication, it is now a museum piece and only put on the air on special occasions. It was built in the 1920s.



Yes Virginia, W3WH does own a microphone! (More than one, actually)
Shack photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Bill Hill W3WH



We hope you guys tipped well!

More N3ZK Pa QSO 2016 Photos:

Above photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2016 Paul Lusardi NØVLR, Photo Row Below courtesy of & © Copyright 2016 Frank Bobro N3FB



Hex Beam with a View!



N3ZK



NØVLR

Zombie Satellite: Oscar 7 Still Alive, 42 Years In Space

AMSAT News Service

Washington, DC, October 4th, 2016 — In a little more than a month, the venerable [AMSAT-OSCAR 7](#) Amateur Radio satellite will mark 42 years in space. AMSAT says AO-7, the oldest ham radio satellite still in operation, is now switching between Mode A and Mode B on a daily basis, after coming up in Mode A on September 30th.

"That suggests that the satellite is now in constant sunlight and receiving enough power from the solar cells for the 24-hour timer to stay on throughout its entire orbit," AMSAT-NA Secretary Paul Stoetzer N8HM, said. "Expect daily mode switches between Mode A and Mode B to occur for the next three months or so. As AO-7's orbit precesses and the periods of constant sunlight become fewer and fewer, there will be less of an opportunity to use Mode A on a yearly basis, so enjoy it while it lasts!"

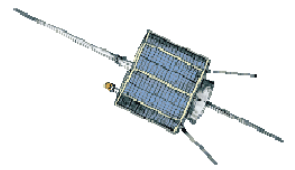
In Mode A, earthbound amateurs transmit on 2 meters and receive on 10 meters. Stoetzer said the type of 10 meter antenna isn't fussy. "Try whatever you can," he said. When continuously illuminated, AO-7's mode will alternate between Modes A and B (70 centimeters up/2 meters down) every 24 hours.

November 15, will mark 42 years since AO-7 was launched into space from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. AO-7 was the second so-called "Phase 2" Amateur Radio satellite that AMSAT-NA constructed and launched into low-Earth orbit. It remained in operation until a short circuit occurred in a battery in 1981. More than 20 years later, however, AO-7 unexpectedly returned to life, its 2 meter beacon showing up on 145.9775 MHz.

AMSAT describes the Mode A/B spacecraft as "semi-operational" and dependent upon its solar panels for a reliable power source; AO-7 works only as long as its solar panels are illuminated by sunlight. Satellite experts speculate that AO-7's resurrection occurred when the short circuit in the battery opened up for some reason, allowing the solar cells to power the spacecraft. When the satellite goes into eclipse, it powers down.

Since the satellite came back to life, terrestrial users have enjoyed numerous contacts via AO-7. Last February Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, of Arkansas [achieved a distance milestone](#) on AO-7 using Mode B to work Eduardo Erlemann, PY2RN (GG66lw), in Brazil — 8030.895 kilometers — which Swanson said was "way beyond the theoretical range AO-7" and a feat that "the math said shouldn't be possible."

AO-7 has beacons on 29.502 MHz (used in conjunction with Mode A) and, nominally, on 145.972 MHz (used in conjunction with Mode B and Mode C — low power Mode B). The 435.100 MHz beacon has an intermittent problem, switching between 400 mW and 10 mW.



New Satellites with Amateur Radio Payloads Launched

AMSAT News Service

Washington, DC, October 12th, 2016 — The [AlSat-1N](#) and [Pratham](#) satellites, both carrying Amateur Radio payloads, have both been heard and identified following the India Space Research Organization (ISRO) PSLV-C35 mission launch on September 26th. Reports are requested. Reports on AMSAT-BB indicate the [Pratham](#) CW beacon on 145.980 MHz is active.



The 3U [AlSat-1N](#) CubeSat was built in collaboration with the Algerian Space Agency, the UK Space Agency (UKSA), Surrey Space Centre (SSC) staff, and Algerian students as a technology transfer and demonstrator for Algeria.

[AlSat-1N](#) is also hosting three UK payloads from various institutions and aims to take images of the Earth and send back data from the UK payloads. The IARU coordinated downlink is 437.650 MHz (9.6 FSK). Downlinked [data reports](#) are welcome, both decoded hex files and recordings.

The [Pratham](#) satellite, built by students at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, also is a 3U CubeSat. It was designed to measure total electron count at an 800 kilometer (approximately 500 mile) altitude sun-synchronous orbit. The CW beacon (35 WPM) will transmit continuously at 145.980 MHz, and the Institute seeks post-launch reports. The satellite's 1200 bps FSK downlink is on 437.455 MHz. There is a [Pratham](#) project [Facebook page](#).



Less Power To You...

Gil Gruson AK4YH courtesy of [eHam.net](#)

On September 5th, 1977 NASA launched the Voyager 1 space probe from Cape Canaveral to study the outer Solar System. The little guy just kept on going into interstellar space, still transmitting out of its twelve foot dish antenna, blissfully unaware that QRP doesn't work. Well, Voyager cheated a little, I do too sometimes, by using 23 Watts of power, still almost 538 million miles per Watt. Imagine waiting more than thirty seven and a half hour to get a reply to your CQ! Sure, Earth has big ears, but let's not tarnish NASA's golden record; pun intended.

Back down to Earth, are we? Some amateurs use levels of power that if not your head, will make your electricity meter spin. How much power do we need? The FCC says as little as possible to make a decent contact. Some play with micro-Watts and get through; millions of miles per Watt. Transceiver manufacturers seem to have settled on 100 Watts, a number most likely based on marketing and economical factors rather than real life applications. 100 is a nice round number.

I am a big fan of QRP, or rather, ultra-portable radios, usually 5 to 10 Watts. My friend Ray and I used to experiment with reduced power down to 100 milliwatts over more than eight hundred miles; CW of course. Why signal with a flashlight when you can use a laser pointer? I was making regular contacts to Eastern Europe from Florida using from one to five Watts to about six thousand miles. Power is expensive, in dollars, Amperes and kilograms.



The military figured it out long ago. They deal with life-and-death communications from the field, portable man-pack operations in HF, which is still in use, just not the only option anymore. My RT-320 outputs about 25 Watts, as do most military portable transceivers.

Power does help, nobody can deny it. There is however the law of diminishing returns. When the ionosphere isn't cooperating no amount of power will get through. When it does, you don't need much to be heard. A good resonant antenna and some knowledge will go a long way. I bet inadequate antennas radiating only a few Watts rather than the hundred coming out of the transceiver are the norm rather than the exception.

I suggest any new Hams to save their money, study antenna designs and spend an afternoon at the hardware store. Amplifiers are mostly used for

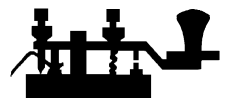
contests where the goal is not to make contact but crush the competition. Better chase losses, hunt for noise sources, use better aerials and more efficient modes like CW or PSK-31.

I believe the magic numbers are 5 Watts CW & 25 Watts SSB.

You can go on a nice DXpedition for the price of an amplifier.

If someone doesn't believe how well they hear your 5 Watts, tell them the story of the little probe that could.

Silent Keys



Bill Moore NC1L, former ARRL DXCC & Awards Manager,
64, Newington CT, October 6th

King Bhumibol Adulyadej HS1A, 88, October 13th

KCØW Regroups

417COW, 3C, 3CØ Announced

Tom Callas KCØW

The Philippines, October 23rd — I will be in the Philippines from 26 October—25 November. The callsign will be **417COW**. This unique prefix has never been issued before, so it should generate some good interest.

I'm planning DXpeditions to both Equatorial Guinea and Annobon, after 417COW goes QRT. Fantastic (and quick) progress is being made acquiring the **3C** and **3CØ** licenses. This exciting news would not have been made possible without the VERY helpful assistance of the Equatorial Guinea licensing authorities.

Further information regarding these proposed 50—60 day long DXpeditions to both Equatorial Guinea and Annobon will be posted soon.



T31W Kanton Island 2017

Cancelled

Gene Spinelli K5GS

With the recent activation of T31 by a small European team the Perseverance DX Group (PDXG) and T31W team have canceled their planned 2017 T31W activation. Usually when a DX-pedition is canceled there is little to no explanation for the decision. We will be more open:

As you may recall, we announced our intention to activate T31, Most Wanted Number 16, in March, 2016. We began building the team, applied for a license, secured a boat capable of safely transporting 12 operators and submitted documentation for visas. Additionally, banking arrangements were made, a Limited Liability Company was formed, we opened the website and documents were submitted by the team members. In other words, significant time and effort were expended by the team, including an outlay of money.

Seven months after we announced T31W a 3 man team from Europe activated T31 and made a total of 30,000 QSOs. Of the total, 5,000 QSOs were with Europe where T31 is one of the most needed entities. Subsequently, they announced their intention to return to T31 in 2017 to finish the job. Based on these events it makes no sense for us to commit personal or donated funds to continue the project.

When the news of this recent T31 activation became public we considered switching to one of two back-up DXCC entities. One that we've been in discussions with the governing agencies for over 2 years, and another that recently came into view. These alternatives are still under consideration.

We thank the DX community for their past support of our projects; donations made to T31W will be refunded over the next 30 days.

Questions may be directed to: info@t31w.com

ZD7VDE October Update — *The opening of St. Helena airport still has continuing serious problems and it is still not possible to land sensible sized aircraft like 737 there. The planned flights (in May/June and October by Atlantic Star) have been cancelled. The Comair flights from South Africa have likewise not started. All in all, it is a total mess and the UK government is being accused of building a £250M white elephant of an unusable airfield, all due to strong winds and wind shear!*

I have had to cancel, re-book and cancel my accommodation – if you read the ZD7 'newsletters' (the St. Helena Sentinel and the St Helena Independent) you will see it has been a very sorry story – hotels were encouraged to prepare extra rooms for the coming 'tourist boom' and one has even reportedly gone out of business, because they spent a lot to prepare and have now got no means of recovering their losses!"

So I am afraid I am not going this October either (having had to cancel my May/June trip). I am keeping somewhat up-to-date about the events on my website – but there is no planned date for the full airport opening so I don't have any certain future date.

You may know the boat (the RMS St. Helena) was due to retire at the end of July, but it has been kept in operation for about another year as it is obviously the only way of accessing the island. I am looking at the possibility of traveling by the boat, but the problem is two fold – the cost is at least double the planned cost of flying, and I would have to travel for two weeks and only be able to stay for one week... It is just possible I will take this option, but I am still waiting as I could theoretically fly at quite short notice, should proper flights begin.

We therefore have a sorry situation and a continuing delay – I will try to keep everyone posted. Maybe the only silver lining is that ZD7 will get rarer and any future visit would be popular!" — Bill Rothwell GØVDE

DX News Briefs



Throughout 2017, Irish Radio Amateurs will be on air with nine special callsigns - **EI11WAW** through to **EI99WAW**. Each call will be associated with one of the counties making up the "Wild Atlantic Way". Each callsign will have its own distinctive QSL card depicting a highlight of the county linked to the callsign. QSL requests via EI6AL. For more info, see QRZ.com under each special callsign —KB8NW

Recent activities from **SV2ASP/A** on 20 CW are those of a **Slim**. DL5EBE & SV1DPI indicate that Monk Apollo underwent "major" surgery in September and has been hospitalized on and off since. — DL5EBE, SV1DPI, W3UR

6W1SU will be QRV for the next 2 to 3 years, 80 - 6. He is currently SSB only but hopes to add CW later. QSL via MØURX — VE3REV

9Q6BB will be QRV for up to 3 years, 80 - 10. QSL via W3HNK — EA4BB

EA8/KDK5ON is QRV from AF-004 through 5 November, 40—6, CW SSB RTTY & Digital modes. QSL via DK5ON — DK5ON, KB8NW

ZF2ZB is QRV through 5 November. QSL via JH1NBN. (ZF2ZB in 2009 is via K9WZB) — KB8NW

3B8/DJ7RJ will be QRV 9 November - 6 December, HF, CW & SSB, with a focus on 160. QSL via DJ7RJ — DJ7RJ

When he's not busy scuba diving, look for **HR9/AD8J** through 12 November, QRV 80 - 10, mainly CW. QSL via AD8J — AD8J

5Z4/DL7KL and **5Z4/DJ6TF** will be QRV 16-30 November, 80 - 10, primarily CW & Digital with some SSB. QSL both via their home calls — KB8NW

8Q7SP will be QRV from AS-013, 160 - 6 CW SSB & RTTY. They will be capable of up to 5 bands simultaneously. QSL via SP6FXY. More info at <http://www.9q7sp.dxing.pl> — SP6EQZ

VP9/KQ8Z will be QRV 23 -30 November, using **VP9I** during the CQ WW DX CW contest. QSL both calls via GMØIIO — GM4O

FH/HB9AMO will be QRV 23 November—4 December, Holiday style on 80—10 (possibly 160), mainly CW with some RTTY. No SSB. More information at <http://www.hb9amo.net>. QSL via MØURX — HB9AMO

K4QPL and AA4NC will be QRV as **VP5M** 26 - 27 November during the CQ WW DX CW contest. QSL via K4WPL. Also look for **VP5/AA4NC** 21 - 30 November outside of the contest. QSL via AA4NC — AA4NC

W1UE will be QRV as **4XØW** 26-27 November during the CQ WW DX CW contest. He will be QRV as **4X/W1UE** before and after the contest. QSL both via W1UE — W1UE

A25UK should be reactivated in the spring, for a period of 10 days. They will be QRV on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via MØOXO. More information at <https://www.prismembroidery.co.uk/dxexp/a25uk> — MØTGV, KB8NW

QSL Routes

3G1G via CE1ANF — KB8NW	MX1SWL via GØNQZ — GØNQZ
4LØA via EA7FTR — 4L4WW	NP3A via WD8CW — NP3A
4X2M via 4X4DZ — NG3K	NP3U via WP3E — WP3E
5T1MM via PY4WAS — PY4WAS	OHØX via OH2TA — OH6KZP
5T2MM via PY4WAS — PY4WAS	OJØB via OH2BH — OH2BH
5T4C via NI4DX — NG3K	PQ4W via PY4WAS — PY4WAS
6Y9X via K1XM — K1XM	T32AZ via KH6QJ — NG3K
8P5A via NN1N — NG3K	T42A via RW6HS — KB8NW
8R1PH via PY4WAS — PY4WAS	UP2L via UA9AB — KB8NW
AT2W via W1UE — W1UE	V6Z via N3SL — NG3K
B7P via BA4EG — BA4EG	VP5M via K4QPL — AA4NC
BY5HB via BG5EFD — KB8NW	VP9I via GMØIIO — GM4O
C4A via 5B4KH — NG3K	ZP5R via PY4WAS — PY4WAS
CØ6CAC via PY4WAS — PY4WAS	ZV2TA via PY2XIZ — KB8NW
DX2R via W3HNK — KB8NW	ZZ4WW via PY4WAS — PY4WAS
GX4BJC via GØNQZ — G3RPV	ZZ8W via PY4WAS — PY4WAS

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.



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Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

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

The Cingolani Building

300 North McKean Street, Butler PA 16001

Phone: 724-283-0653

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Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at www.dashtoons.com!

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New ARRL CEO NY2RF To Visit WPA



All interested Amateur Radio Operators are invited to attend a very special evening on November 9th with Tom Gallagher NY2RF, the new CEO of the American Radio Relay League, hosted by the Mercer County ARC W3LIF.

Tom's prepared presentation will start at 7 PM at Penn State Shenango, 147 Shenango Avenue, Sharon, PA. There is plenty of seating available.

More information is available on the MCARC website, <http://w3lif.org> — click on the Penn State address for a [pop-up map](#).

— Tim Duffy K3LR, WPA Section Manager, ARRL

Since late September, ARRL has experienced intermittent problems delivering bulk e-mail products, such as *The ARRL Letter* and Section News, to member subscribers with AOL e-mail addresses. The problem is that AOL is not accepting all messages ARRL is sending; some make it through to subscribers, and some do not.

The League has open trouble tickets with AOL regarding this issue but has not yet received any substantive responses. As a result, there is no estimated time frame to resolve this problem. Delivery to all other major Internet Service Providers continues normally.

If you have an AOL.com e-mail address and have been affected by this problem, ARRL suggests that you set up a *new* e-mail account with another provider and change the e-mail address in your ARRL member profile to the new account (click on "Edit your Profile" on the ARRL home page, after logging in). This problem is *not* specific to ARRL, as many other organizations are reporting the same issues with their AOL subscribers.

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 11th, 2016 — In [comments](#) filed on October 12th with the FCC, ARRL reiterated its case that the FCC should change the Part 97 rules both to delete the symbol rate limits in Section 97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz. In a July *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 16-239, the FCC proposed to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's *Petition*, but it declined to propose a *bandwidth* limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations.

ARRL told the FCC in its comments that the current HF symbol rate "speed limit" reflects 1980s technology and has no place in an experimental radio service in which modern protocols could be efficiently deployed in crowded RTTY/data subbands.

"The symbol rate limit was created in order to maximize the efficient use and reuse of that crowded, shared spectrum, but the assumptions made at the time are no longer valid," ARRL said, "and the rules now prohibit radio amateurs from utilizing state-of-the-art technology, thus precluding or substantially inhibiting any meaningful contribution to the advancement of the radio art in this area." ARRL said earlier assumptions are no longer valid mainly because there is no correlation between the data rate and the occupied bandwidth in the rules now.

The League said present rules in the HF data subbands promote inefficiency, allowing data transmissions of unlimited bandwidth as long as the symbol rate is sufficiently low, and it stressed that there must be *some* limit on occupied bandwidth for HF data emissions.

"Eliminating the symbol rate limitations for data emissions *and substituting a maximum authorized bandwidth* would permit the utilization of all HF data transmission protocols presently legal in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as state-of-the-art protocols that fall within the authorized bandwidth," the League said.

ARRL said that it could be "fairly debated" whether or not 2.8 kHz is the proper maximum bandwidth for data emissions. "Greater bandwidth for data emissions would permit a wider array of data emissions now and in the future," the League said in its comments. "However, even 2.8 kHz could arguably permit usurpation of the subbands to the detriment of CW and other narrow-bandwidth emissions. ARRL views the 2.8 kHz maximum bandwidth proposal for data emissions at HF to be a necessary component of the [FCC's proposal], and it fairly balances the objectives of facilitating use of new and future data emissions and protecting against usurpation of the band by a few data stations.

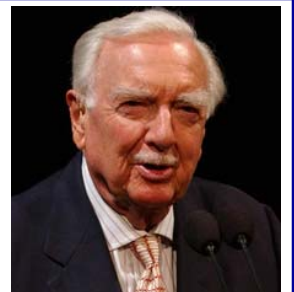
ARRL said it would be impossible to reduce the permitted maximum bandwidth for data emissions at HF much below 2.8 kHz without prohibiting data modes that are now legal. "At the same time, it would not be desirable to have a few data stations using large swaths of spectrum to the detriment of other modes," the League said.

The deadline to file reply comments in the proceeding — ie, comments on comments already filed — is November 10th.

Special Event Station **W9C** will be QRV 31 October—6 November, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of legendary broadcaster Walter Cronkite KB2GSD (November 4th). **W9C** will be QRV 80—10 meters on CW, SSB & RTTY at various times. A certificate of accomplishment will be available electronically, to confirm contacts, via N9TK@comcast.net.

More information is available in November QST.

"And that's the way it is." — N9TK via KB8NW



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 and the automation should take care of the rest!

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Make Ham Radio Great Again Candidate TR1UMP via Jarrad Mitchell VK3BL

Just a little something I wrote; hope others find it funny. Its lighthearted - not meant to be taken at all seriously and/or used for any purpose other than eliciting laughs.

If you vote for me, I will get my experts - SPE experts - the best experts you've ever seen, to appraise all radios. These experts will then set prices, tremendous prices, prices so high no illegal immigrant will ever be able to afford them, no matter what the condition of the radio.

Then, to make sure that no copy cat knock off radios enter our borders, I'll build a wall. It will be the best wall you've ever seen. It will be such a fantastic wall, that the hams over in China will say now THAT is a GREAT WALL.

Now my experts are so good, I can't even name them. They're not even allowed to have names. Its all about national security. If you don't tell 1S1S their names, 1S1S can't put them on the list. We use handles. Its very technical, you wouldn't understand. No person in 1S1S has ever heard of a handle, or has handled a woman.

What about my daughter though guys? Isn't she as good looking as a Collins KWM-2A? Isn't she sexy. Damn she is sexy, just like Collins radios. Wow, imagine if someone offered a low price for my daughter. I'd have them deported, jailed, and killed and banned from the DXCC Program. Same with my Collins. Don't offer me a low price for my Collins or my daughter.

I have the best CW operators. CW Operators so good, you won't even know they've logged someone - when they've logged someone, that person keeps calling until they die of old age. Amazing CW operators.

CBs are coming into our country, and stealing all our tubes. Its just terrible. Families unable to DX because they can't get tubes for their linears. These CBers, they take all the good tubes. Like the 3CX3000A7s. They don't even look after these tubes. Tube prices have gone through the roof. Its Crooked. They come over here, and they steal these tubes from Crooked Broadcasters. These CBers are the worst people. The worst. They must be stopped. Why are we talking about radio room talk when there are CBers. I will stop the CBers. I already have the best experts looking into building tubes that cannot be used by these people.

Now don't get me started on HI1LRY. If HI1LRY was any good, she would have built a wall 30 years ago. Radio Manufacturing would have stayed in America. We'd have no problem with dirty FT-101Es crossing the borders and transmitting here illegally.

But she isn't any good. She couldn't even build a crystal set. IF she built a crystal set, the coils would be all crooked. We'd call her crooked HI1LRY down at the club. But we wouldn't let her in the club. HI1LRY is a woman. I love women - check out my wife Melania, S53YL. Melania can QSO for hours. Shes an amazing QSOer. I love women.

Look at these hands. These are large hands. You want a president with large hands. A president with large hands can send code all day. And you know what you need to send code all day?

A Collins radio, and a 30S1. Look at the 30S1. That's a big linear. Do you know why its a big linear? Because its made in America. When you make radios in America, you don't need to put them on boats. Experts have assured me that without boats, the radios and linears can be bigger.

And what you heard on AM Phone the other day - that was radio room talk. But just think of that QRM. Did you hear the QRM? How can we talk with that QRM.

My experts will fix the QRM. We're going to build linears so big, so powerful, that their will be no QRM. You cant even imagine the linears we're going to build. We're going to build linears with 3-500ZGs driving 3CX5000s driving 8974s. Look at the EIMAC 8974 / X-2159 on my website. 1S1S doesn't have 8974 linears.

When the global geomagnetic storm hit, lots of people lost DX. They couldn't hear the DX. But I went in, and I worked that DX. Worked that DX on every band and every mode. Its called DXing, HI1LRY.

I worked T31T first call 59 on 40M SSB Phone when the storm hit. No one else could hear them. It was terrible. They asked me to spot them on the cluster. I was the first person to spot them on the cluster. That's how good at DXing I am. I worked them five-nine first call, and spotted them on the cluster. Other hams thanked me for spotting them on the cluster.

When I'm president, everyone will have DX again.

We're going to use these linears to DX all over the world. No 1S1S station will be safe. We're going to work all the DX, and there will be no DX left for anyone else. It will be the greatest decade of DXing the world has ever seen. In fact, we will work so much DX that China won't even be able to hear DX. You know why? Because there won't be any DX left. We're bringing DX back to America.

And we're going to fix the sunspots.

Thank you.

Disclaimer: This is satire, not politics. Unlike Russia, I'm not trying to influence your vote. The humor is derived from talking about radios as an election issue, not the merits of any political party. If anyone doesn't find this is funny, I apologize for my poor Australian taste in humor, and will respect if you won't do me the honor of a QSO.



Newington, CT., October 28th, 2016 — What have been called “highly suspicious” VHF transmissions along the Bengal-Bangladesh border now are being considered signals of interest to India's Intelligence Bureau. After several days of monitoring, Ambarish Nag “Raju” Biswas, VU2JFA [told The Indian Express](#) that he and his team have determined that the transmissions, taking place on Amateur Radio frequencies, are coming from the area of Basirhat in West Bengal. The voice communications have been heard at night.

Federal Ministry of Communication officials in India had asked Biswas, the secretary of the [West Bengal Amateur Radio Club](#), and his fellow hams to keep an ear on the strange VHF signals.

Biswas told *The Indian Express* that he'd found the recent signals suspicious because he'd heard similar communications in 2002 and 2003. Subsequently, police arrested six “extremists,” from Gangasagar, an island in the Ganges River delta, he told the paper.

An earlier [article](#) in the *Hindustan Times* reported that the signals were being heard in the dead of night, with participants said to be in motion and speaking in some sort of code in Bengali and Urdu with a Bangladeshi accent. They also used numerical codes, according to the report.

Indian Intelligence Bureau officials did not rule out the possibility that terror organizations were behind the signals. “The border of India-Bangladesh near West Bengal is porous,” a senior Intelligence Bureau official told *The Indian Express*. “Smugglers and extremists try to exploit it fully.”

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

WACOM HAMFEST 2016

Washington County Fairgrounds

2151 North Main Street, Washington PA

Sunday, November 6th

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 724-350-6745

Or WACOM, c/o Norma Plants N3YJJ, 236

Chambers Ridge Rd, West Alexandria PA
15376

*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 for Updates

Amateur Radio Keeps "The Phantom" In Touch

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, October 28th, 2016 — The venerable comic strip "The Phantom," originally inked by Lee Falk starting in the 1930s, has recently resurrected Amateur Radio as a plot device. "The Ghost Who Walks" has resorted to ham radio in the past, dating to the early days of the strip, when the Phantom needed to get a vital message through — on one occasion using a phone patch.

In the current story thread, the Phantom goes into a rather retro-looking ham shack in the ancient Skull Cave, the jungle hideaway he shares with his wife, Diana Palmer. They're now empty nesters, and the Phantom wants to assuage his wife's fears that their now college-age son, Kit, indeed has arrived at his monastic school in an unspecified Himalayan country (a daughter, Heloise, is away at college in the US).

His son's teacher breaks away from tutoring Kit to quietly keep an on-the-air schedule with the Phantom, in order to let him know that the young man got there safely. Their conversation in Morse code is displayed, in a fashion, across the panels of the strip. Only some of it actually seems to make sense.

"Darling, Morse code!? Isn't that obsolete?" asks Mrs. Phantom, as the masked crime fighter sits at a hand key (with no apparent lead wires running from it) in front of what looks like a National NC-300-series receiver and assorted other boat anchors.

"Not at all," the Phantom replies. "And certainly not in the Himalayas."

Apparently not in the fictional African country of Bangalla either, which the Phantom Family calls home. A past strip once showed the Phantom setting up a microwave dish with a handheld connected to a solar panel.

Appearing in more than 500 newspapers around the world, "The Phantom" now is penned by Mike Manley, written by Tony DePaul, and distributed by King Features.





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 26th, 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

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



(800) 545-8881

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
of Canonsburg, PA*

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



- First Prize:** ICOM IC-7300
100 W HF+6 M Transceiver
- Second Prize:** Comet CAA-Mark 2
Antenna Analyzer
- Third Prize:** Clear Speech DSP Noise
Reduction Speaker

**NEW
LOCATION!**

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

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2017. Reservations received after February 1st, 2017 must include payment in full.

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

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

E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

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.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____) →

(check one) ↓

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

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

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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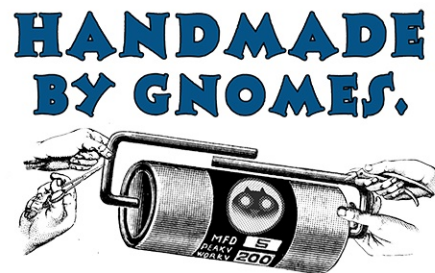


Send an email to bernie@dailydx.com or go to www.dailydx.com

The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



Arhhh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



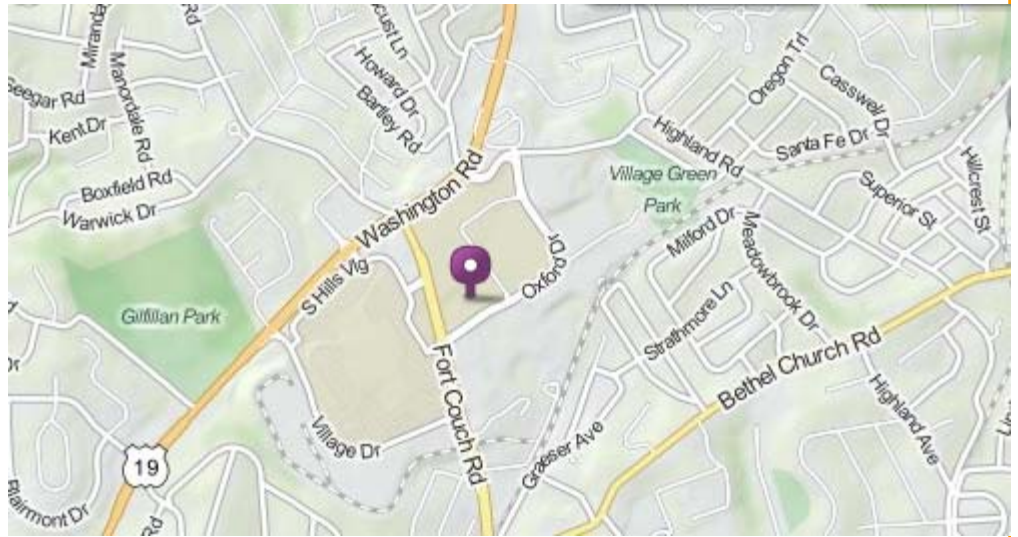
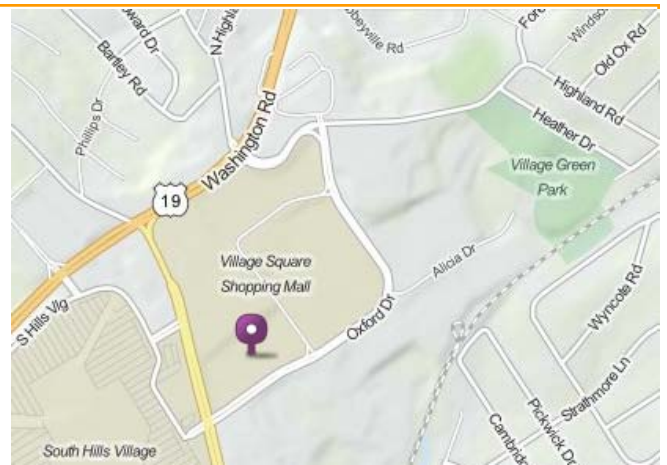
2016 WASH Meeting

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

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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NP2SH/B

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