



# WASHRAG™



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 12  
DECEMBER 2016

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

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





# WASH RAG™



VOLUME 18 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2016

## Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, December 1<sup>st</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 club plans & upcoming events for 2017, including the 2017 **WASH 2 meter simplex contest**, **WASHFEST 2017** and more. See you there!



Cover Photo: One of many pictures from the 2016 WACOM Hamfest. More inside!

Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN



## WASH 2017 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| President      | Glen Roberts KE7FD       |
| VP / Secretary | Harold Rosenberger K3HCR |
| 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.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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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 February 26<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 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@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

First, I would like to thank all the members for putting there trust in me for the past five years, as President of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**.

I will continue to help, just from the sidelines!

I would like to congratulate Glen KE7FD as our new President, and Harold K3HCR as our new VP/Secretary. I am sure they will do a great job.

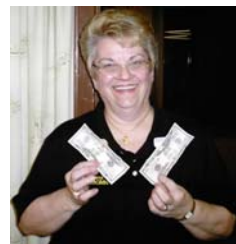
I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

And with everyone's help in the New Year, a very successful Hamfest.

See you at the meeting this Thursday!

— 73, Carol Danko KB3GMN

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



The FCC has approved adding three new "event codes" to the Emergency Alert System:

EWV for Extreme Winds  
Warning, SSA for Storm Surge Watch, and SSW for Storm Surge Warning.

The FCC is requiring that EAS equipment makers provide software upgrades to EAS participants by March 12th. More information at [nhc.noaa.gov](http://nhc.noaa.gov)

Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, was a cool, crisp November morning, with little traffic on the roads early on as the multitude of swarms had worn themselves out on tryptophan and Black Friday sales. So it ended up being a smaller than usual gathering for **the WASH Breakfast Gang**, 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, N3DFK, N3IDH and W3WN. Plenty of hot food and hot coffee accompanied discussions why use Linux servers?, the dangers of the Internet of Things, "Computers and Security are like children and guns!", smoking... a turkey breast for Thanksgiving, along with grilling a turkey, backup power generators and fun with testing them, full freezers, politics and guns, the statue of Education, and RTFM (Reading The Factory Manual). And that was just some of the notes.

Hope to see you and the rest of the Gang can join us next time, on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve morning) 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!

Many of us who've been around the club for a few years were stunned and saddened to learn, at or just after the WACOM Hamfest, that our friend **Pete Cole N3RNX** had just become a **Silent Key**. Pete did so many things for the club, over the years, that trying to list them would no doubt come up short; suffice to say, if you needed his help, you could rely on him to come through, no questions asked.

But we'd be remiss to not remember how instrumental Pete was (along with co-owner Steve W3SRL and others) in acquiring, refurbishing, and operating the 146.955 Repeater. The **WASH** club were welcome to use that machine for many years, and when Pete retired from the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department and moved to South Carolina, he was gracious enough to give his shares of the repeater ownership to the club, gratis. We've missed seeing our friend since he moved away, and we are saddened by his loss. Our condolences to his family.

A quick reminder that **St. Clair Hospital** may be conducting a **simulated emergency test**, and may request our participation on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available from Rick KB3IAC, when he gets it from the hospital staff.

If you missed the election — no, the club's election — congratulations are in order to **incoming WASH President Glen Robers KE7FD**, and incoming **WASH Vice President/Secretary Harold Rosenberger K3HCR**. And thanks to **outgoing WASH President Carol Danko KB3GMN**, and **WASH VP/Secretary Ben Williams KB3ERQ**, for all of their hard work on behalf of the club over the last few years.

As **2016 is winding down**, we do want to remind everyone that some exciting events are coming up on the horizon in 2017. Our annual **2 Meter Simplex contest** is coming up this January, followed by **WASHFEST 2017** in February at our new location in South Park. We really hope that everyone in the club joins in on both of these events, as we can have a lot of fun and a good time when we all work together!

Speaking of **WASHFEST 2017**, if you haven't seen the prize list, take a look at the flyer on Page 16. There will be more info coming up from Carol over the next few weeks regarding what we need to get done, so keep an eye on the club reflector for the latest information.

Reminder that our **next VE session** will be at **WASHFEST 2017** in February, with the rest of the year to be scheduled.

Check into **WASHNET** lately?

### WASHNet NCS Schedule

|                   |             |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 12/05/2016        | Mike WA3PYU | <b>01/30/2017</b> | TBA         |
| 12/12/2016        | Rick KB3IAC | 02/06/2017        | TBA         |
| 12/19/2016        | Digital Net | 02/13/2017        | Digital Net |
| <b>12/26/2016</b> | Bill W3WH   | 02/20/2017        | TBA         |
| 01/02/2017        | TBA         | <b>02/27/2017</b> | TBA         |
| 01/09/2017        | TBA         | 03/06/2017        | TBA         |
| 01/16/2017        | Digital Net | 03/13/2017        | Digital Net |
| 01/23/2017        | TBA         | 03/20/2017        | TBA         |

Indicates Swap Net After the Regular Net

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



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

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

Carol KB3GMN, called the meeting to order at 19:02 hours. 15 members and 1 guests were in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed for recent silent keys & others deserving, followed by introductions.

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Bill W3WH, second by Larry K3VX, passed unanimously.

### Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): A balance on the bank account was read. Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Rich N1NCZ to accept. Passed unanimously.

Mark has 3 bills to be paid. Motion from Jim WB4GCS, second by Bill WA3VSS to authorize payment. Passed unanimously

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): Next VE Exam will be in February at **WASHFest**, rest of 2017 exams to be scheduled.

Repeaters (N3FB): Systems repeating. No real changes since last month.

**WASHNet** (KC3ELA): Attendance has been down but is expected to pick up. Reminder that we will now have a monthly swap net after the regularly scheduled weekly net, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month..

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): Upcoming events in the newsletter. Congratulations to both club teams in the Pa QSO Party for achieving a clean sweep.

**WASHFest 2017** (KB3GMN): No report.

Public Service (N3IDH): No report

Ways & Means (KB3GMN): Membership Contributions will be accepted tonight at the end of the meeting.

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President KB3GMN: **WASHFest 2017** main prizes have been selected (see new flyer). Thanks to the new 501.c.3 status, our cost for table rentals is a great deal lower and the hall cost (paid for) is now halved. We will need some help on Saturday for early dealer setup. Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Chuck KC3ELA to allocate \$2300 towards **WASHFest** prizes. Motion carried.

Old Business: Frank N3FB has completed work on the new cables for Field Day, which Jim WB4GCS has checked out on the network analyzer. Sample cables passed around.

New Business: None

Nominations for 2017 Club Officers:

- + Glen Roberts KE7FD accepted his nomination for Club President (last month's meeting)
- + Bob Greene KC3DOF nominated for President by Bill W3WH and Chuck KC3ELA; he declined.
- + Ben KB3ERQ reminded everyone he had declined renomination for VP/Secretary at the last meeting.
- + Harold Rosenberger K3HCR nominated for VP/Secretary by Rich N3SBF and Rich N1NCZ, he accepted. No further new nominations.
- + Motion by Bill W3WH, second by Ron W3WN, to direct the Secretary to cast one ballot for Glen Roberts KE7FD for President, and Harold Rosenberger K3HCR for VP/Secretary. Motion carried. KE7FD and K3HCR declared elected as 2017 officers. (applause)

Good of the Order:

- + Frank N3FB discussed a possibility that WPXI might need communications assistance along the new Holiday Parade route; they might need about 6 hams. Multiple volunteers. They would be needed about 6 AM on the 26<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow if the need exists.
- + Frank has also received an email from the University of Dayton for Hamvention rooms. He asked interested members to contact him.
- + Carol KB3GMN discussed email from the Mercer County ARC W3MIF regarding the upcoming talk from the ARRL CEO
- + Bill W3WH will have some vintage gear for sale from an estate at the WACOM hamfest.

Motion to Adjourn by Chuck KC3ELA, second by Bill W3WH and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 19:43.

## WASH Spotlight: Presidentes

Together again for the last time while both are in office, outgoing **WACOM**

President Bill Steffy NY9H, and outgoing **WASH** President Carol Danko KB3GMN, just before the doors opened to the public at the 2016 WACOM Hamfest.

Thank you to both of you for your service to our clubs over the last few years! You may never know how much it's

appreciated... unless the DA goes ahead and files charges...

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 at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh dot 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 TN     | <b>Silent Keys</b> |
| AA3GM  | KC3DOF | NU3Q   | KA3UPY/M | K3OL        |                    |
| AB3NM  | KC3ELA | W3KTW  | W4ZE     | KE3XB       | AB3KA              |
| AE3DL  | KC3HIK | W3LE   | WASH NE  | N3YPB       | K3EED              |
| K3HCR  | KC3HNU | W3VFA  | N0PEU    | WASH TX     | K3LIE              |
| K3SGT  | KC4WTT | W3WH   | WASH OR  | NB3C        | KA3NMG             |
| K3VX   | KE7FD  | W3WN   | N0VLR    | K3LGM       | KB3ENX             |
| KA3VXM | KI5ZT  | W4CKR  | N0WVP    | KB3JX       | KB3FNM             |
| KB3DCO | N1NCZ  | WA3PYU | KB3NVL   | Jane Wagner | KB3FQT             |
| KB3GMN | N3DFK  | WA3VSS | KB3NVM   | WASH VI     | KB3JHQ             |
| KB3GMU | N3FB   | WB4GCS | WASH OH  | NP2JF       | N3CZZ              |
| KB3IAC | N3IDH  | WO3Z   | N8DPW    |             | N3FZ               |
| KB3IVX | N3KFD  |        |          |             | 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

WA3JPP

# 2016 / 17 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

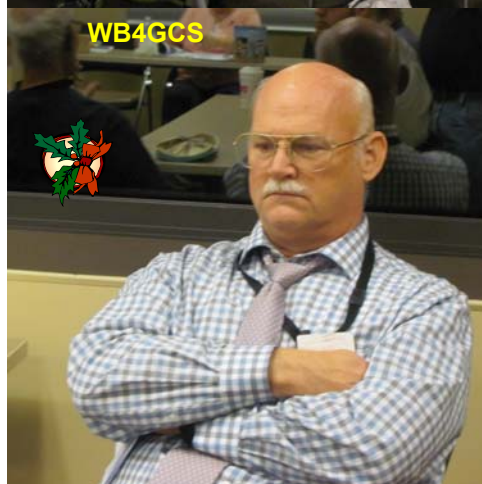
*Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change*

|  |                                 |   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>                     | <i>WASH</i> Meeting             | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center,<br>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 13 <sup>th</sup>                    | SET at St. Clair Hospital       | Contact KB3IAC for more details   |
| 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 5 <sup>th</sup>                      | <i>WASH</i> Meeting             | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center,<br>2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park               |
| 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 2 <sup>nd</sup>                     | <i>WASH</i> Meeting             | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center,<br>2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park               |
| 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><br>Home Economics Building,<br>3735 Buffalo Drive,<br>South Park |
| February 26 <sup>th</sup>                    | <i>WASH</i> VE Exam             |   |
| March 2 <sup>nd</sup>                        | <i>WASH</i> Meeting             | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center,<br>2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel 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>             |
| March 25 <sup>th</sup> — 26 <sup>th</sup>    | CQ WPX Contest SSB              | <a href="http://www.cqwpix.org">http://www.cqwpix.org</a>                             |
| April 6 <sup>th</sup>                        | <i>WASH</i> Meeting             | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center,<br>2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park               |
| May 4 <sup>th</sup>                          | <i>WASH</i> Meeting             | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center,<br>2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park               |
| May 19 <sup>th</sup> — 21 <sup>st</sup>      | DAYTON HAMVENTION ®             | <a href="#">Greene County Fairgrounds, Xenia OH</a>                                   |



# "Seen" at the November Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN



## Ten Tec Update

Mike Dishop N8WFF, Owner, Ten Tec, a Dishtronix Company



*Bellfontaine, OH, November 21<sup>st</sup>* — I wanted to update you on what is happening in Sevierville. The Smokey Mountains are literally fogged in with smoke in some places, as Tennessee has many wild fires burning. I was there two weeks ago and have never experienced anything like it. Driving down Jellico Mountain on I-75, it became literally IFR conditions with near zero visibility from the smoke.

As some of you know Ten Tec has been occupying office condominium space behind the site of the former factory location, where now a Wal-Mart Express is sitting. This site is not appropriate for our needs. Starting last week, we are moving out of this location into a more industrial friendly space. Unfortunately this location is not zoned for commercial walk in traffic, so the days of someone showing up at the factory door unfortunately have come to an end. After an entire year of searching for any possible opportunity to move, this is all we have been able to come up with. Commercial real estate is completely out of control in Sevierville county because of the tourist industry, and unless we have about a half million dollars to invest in the factory location you can just forget about it. Ten Tec is "too small" to receive any incentive, tax breaks or help from the local "Economic Development" office. If you are wondering why I wrote this, it is to head off the endless string of expert recommendation that I contact TVA and the local economic development. I've done it and nobody is going to help Ten Tec in the State of Tennessee.

To get back on track, I stated above we are moving the remainder of this month. You all know what that means. Service will be slow this month. We decided not to have you send in radios this month, so we wouldn't have to move them. There is no cause for alarm or speculation. Service will continue just as soon as we are moved.

I hear and read all kinds of gossip and complaints and this and that about our service, and none of it even close to accurate. We have serviced hundreds of radios this year and have a bunch of happy customers. You will see online some guy complaining or saying he is worried, and then five people saying everything was fine. The people in Tennessee run things, and do their jobs essentially under Boyd's supervision. I don't want to sound condescending, or aloof, or unreasonable, or unfriendly but please see this from my perspective. There are thousands of you and one of me. I am responsible to run this company and pay the people who work here whose families depend on me. I am an electrical engineer and my time needs to be spent getting the new products developed and out the door, not with a dial string for your old rig. It is just not possible for me to answer every email and every telephone call about service issues. If you call me at Dishtronix and leave a message asking me to call you about your Ten Tec, I'm not returning your call. If I answer I'm going to tell you we have put up the procedure that you email [service@tentec.com](mailto:service@tentec.com).

We are short staffed because we do not have sales volume at this time to support a large overhead. This way, Robert can go through all of the email and respond at one time in the morning, then spend the rest of the day shipping radios and parts orders without being interrupted. He is there three days a week, so you don't get answers on Monday or Friday. Sure, I know some of you don't like it. There is no need to tell me about it. I don't like it either, but until we start having a lot more cash flow that is the way it has going to have to be. For those that complain about how long it is taking, please understand this is a million dollar endeavor and money like that just doesn't grow on trees, at least for me. What I am going to try to do next is set up sort of an email hotline for critical cases with Bob, if he will do it. I have to talk to him about this.

OK, enough about that. Let's get on to some better stuff.

Many of you know that under RFC and RKR, Ten Tec quit doing their PCB assembly in house. Those of you who have known me over the decades at Dishtronix know my shop suffered heating issues that made it tough for the machinery to run in the end of January to February Arctic blasts. Well, I have a new and very nice double insulated, heated and cooled free span metal building where I've moved my PCB assembly operation and this is something I'm very excited about. I have retired the older ContactSystems placement machines in favor of newer MYDATA (Micronics Sweden) placement machines. I installed the first MY9 machine this last June and have been using it to build boards for the RX340 commercial orders we have been fulfilling. (Ten Tec did have a MY9 when they were building boards in house.) The MYDATA machines are the choice for high mix medium volume production, especially when equipped with the Agilis quick change feeder system. Feeders usually cost more than the machines in this business, and I've been growing my collection all year. I am about a third of the way to having the collection of feeders I would like to have. Earlier this month I got lucky and was able to purchase the bar code software which will allow me to load and unload components from the machine by just scanning with the bar code reader, and it is done offline. It will help with inventory control and component management which is a real nightmare considering Ten Tec has over 7000 different line items.

The MY9 machine has a capability to hold up to 96 different components and has a single mounting head. As I write this, an air ride big rig is getting closer and closer to Ohio hauling a MY19 machine in from San Francisco which can hold an additional 160 different components (total 256 8 mm tapes) and has 8 mounting heads! I've also moved the 8 zone, lead free capable, pin chain conveyor equipped Electrovert Bravo 8105 oven to the new building last weekend. This gives us the capability to process double sided surface mount and the ability to reliably process BGA chips. I've also purchased this summer, but not yet installed an X ray machine to do 100% inspection of the BGA reflow soldering process. With the existing equipment (stencil printers, board washers, etc.) this will give us what I believe is the most well equipped and modern PCB manufacturing of any amateur radio manufacturer in North America. I believe the other guys outsource their board assembly. It may be the smart thing to do, but I personally prefer to buy and house my own components in house and to have total control over my assembly process. I find it requires more time to outsource and get constant bids for things like this than to just own the equipment and do it myself. I think you get a better product at less cost. Of course the best reason in my opinion for doing it all in house is I can do as small of a production run as I want, IF I am willing to spend the time to set up and do it. Hence the decision for the quick change capability of the MYDATA system.

So, all in all what this means is the Phoenix is rising. I am rebuilding Ten Tec and preparing to do some serious manufacturing, which brings me to my next point.

Most of you know we have been bogged down and overwhelmed with the commercial side of our business this last year since I officially assumed the helm in January. With trying to replenish the hard to get / long lead time / last time buy / obsolete parts, rebuild the PCB assembly operations, moving, and so on we just haven't had the horsepower to build any amateur transceivers. Well, the good news is we have caught up on our commercial contracts. Be glad we did this. You know all the stuff I wrote about above? The commercial contracts paid for that. Without this TEN TEC would not exist right now. We are at a very important cross roads right now. What do we do next?

Some of you know we are developing new products. Those are still off on the horizon. What I need to know is how many of you would purchase Model 599 Eagles, if they were available? I'd like to do a run of 100 of them next. It is a great radio. I like mine every bit as well as my Orion II. The DSP function is superb. We have to talk a little bit about price. When the Eagle was launched it was a \$2100 radio with no accessories. You all know the story of the blow-out sales and the liquidation as the previous owners sold everything that wasn't nailed down on their way out. Some of you got fully loaded radios for \$1299 or whatever. You know they didn't even cover their assembly cost on that, right? Some of you got real bargains. Of course only the last 35 radios or something were sold at that price but you get the point. You will never see a price like that again. A strip model needs to sell at 1699 at least. The more you are willing to pay for a radio the faster the new radios can come out. We want to build radios and sell them so we can keep the production team in place so we can meet the demand when the new radios come out. Everything we do tomorrow depends on how much you support us today.

I'm certain some of you have heard that I and two partners acquired Alpha and that I've been officially at the Helm since August. It is a separate company from Dishtronix / TEN TEC. Of course I will be building the circuit boards for those products as well. I'm after something business people call economy of scale, essentially having enough product flow through the doors to totally occupy the machines and infrastructure.

By the way, we do have RX340s available to build on short notice now.

Let me close by wishing you all a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving holiday, one of my favorites and of course the reason I see my dentist in November for my pre-feast tune up. The Sevierville team and I appreciate your support for Ten Tec, where we believe we are once again Making America Great - One Radio at a Time



## *"Seen" at the 2016 WACOM Hamfest*

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN





***"Seen" at the 2016 WACOM Hamfest***

Photos courtesy of and ©Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN

**Incoming ARRL WPA Section Manager Joe Shupienis W3BC****ARRL WPA Section DXCC Card Checker "Captain" Jack Buzon KA3HPM****ARRL WPA Section Volunteer Counsel Mike Lazaroff K3AIR (and a friend)****ARRL Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM**



## *A Ham Radio Story: Item 16*

Eric Nichols KL7AJ

Hey, El Joe....whatcha got up your sleeve besides stale Right Guard?" I ventured. I should have known better than to ask. Joel Ballek WL7AI, always had these things he called "ideas" rattling around in his cranium, usually to my abject horror.

"Funny you should mention that, E! As a matter of fact, I've been working on my next invention for the past three weeks. It's going to make me rich!"

"Do tell," I said. "No, on second thought, *don't* tell."

"O ye of little faith. Have any of my inventions ever failed to perform precisely to specifications?"

"How about Scrapscatter, for starters."

"That was an exception, E! You have to admit it was based on good sound science. It was the bureaucrats that killed that one."

"O-o-o-kay...; I guess I'll give you the benefit of the doubt on that one. So, what is this Earth-shattering invention you've got percolating?"

"It's a ham radio idea."

"Of course. What other kinds of ideas are there?" I sighed with resignation.

"Run over to that Army green cabinet that says "Item 16" on it and grab the oscilloscope off the top of it, will ya?"

I wended my way through the minefield of mysterious science projects in El Joe's garage toward the cabinet in question. I retrieved a rather large, decrepit-looking oscilloscope of unknown pedigree from the roof of the cabinet and lugged it back to the shell-shocked workbench.

"Thanks, E."

"You know, you can get a twenty-first century oscilloscope that does a lot more than this thing...and they're really cheap too! If your invention is so spectacular, you should at least have an oscilloscope that will do it justice. So, where's your invention?"

"That is the invention, E!"

"What? You invented a decrepit 17<sup>th</sup> century oscilloscope? What *ever* will they think of next?"

"You're a man of limited vision, E. What makes you think this is an oscilloscope?"

"Uh....because you told me to 'grab that oscilloscope off the top of it, will ya?' Which I did."

"I only said that because I *knew* you were a man of limited vision and that I had to convey my desires using a vocabulary consistent with a person bound by such a restrictive paradigm."

"Uh....right. That statement is really....um....er...what is the word I'm groping for...ah, yes....*stupid!*"

"Now now, E. No need to get testy. Open your mind and learn a thing or three from the master."

"Mea culpa. Consider it opened."

"Excellent. Now, before proceeding, answer this question. What is the most annoying feature of modern amateur radio equipment?"

It didn't take me long to answer. "That's a pretty easy one. Menu driven, multi-purpose controls. I'd give anything for a real radio with real knobs and switches."

"As would we all!" El Joe exclaimed. "Tis a no-brainer indeed. And...drum roll, please.... what you see before you is the exclusive WL7AI universal de-menuizer. Behold."

"Uh....what?"

"Yes, you heard me right. A universal de-menuizer Take your most annoying ricebox, jam-packed with annoying, menu driven keypads. Place the de-menuizer next to said annoying ricebox. Allow a moment for some simple handshaking to take place, and lo. You have a "de-virtualized" front panel to work with. Each jumbo sized knob and switch now has one and only one function."

"Aha," I said. "But what about the CRT display?"

"That's just a decoy," El Joe said. He removed the graticule from the front of the screen to reveal a rotary telephone dial.

"What the....." I began.

"This is just a bonus. We know how annoying those minuscule cell phone keypads can be, as well. We can de-virtualize those too. Just place your cell phone next to the de-menuizer, give it a few seconds to handshake, and you have a *real official genuine telephone dial* to work with. No groping in the dark or fat-fingering those gnat-sized keypads. People will love it."

I stroked my chin for a moment. "Well, I don't know if *people* will love it....but I have to admit a lot of hams will. I think you may be on to something here, El Joe. So, when are you going to subject the public at large to this?"

El Joe shrugged. "Well, there's still a few bugs to work out. I hope to have it ready by Dayton. Would you like to be my beta tester?"

"El Joe, you've made me an offer I can't refuse."

"Now, aren't you sorry you doubted me?"

"Well, I'll let you know in a few weeks."

I lugged the creation out to my car and plopped it in the back seat, amongst a growing collection of El Joe's creative triumphs. I'm either a sucker or a genius. I haven't figure out which yet.





# Serendipity

Jeffrey Hughes KM4YWZ

Even the rankest of greenhorns gets caught up in expectation. You do a thing a handful of times, you figure out the patterns, and – voila – you're suddenly bound to something. Even if you don't know squat.

"Dave and I are running at eleven," Ginny says.

"The battlefield?" I ask. She nods.

The slow-rolling morning has sharpened the tiniest, little bit. When she walks to the door a little bit later I smile. "An hour," I tell myself.

I love hitting the switches. First the power supply. A modern, switching supply so it doesn't really need to warm up. But I can pretend. Waiting a few pregnant moments before I hit the button on the radio. While I wait I remind myself that someday I'll have an honest-to-God tube-type rig to go with the modern stuff. And I won't have to pretend anymore.

After enjoying the momentary power-on display – does one ever get tired of seeing their call sign? – my hand reaches towards the coax switch. My mind abides for the most fleeting of moments... the wire strung up in the tree outside, just outside the window. And then just as quickly returns to the task at hand. As I flip this last switch the faint buzzing – the pure noise I can hear before even putting the earphones on – turns to something else.

Patterns, patterns. I bend towards the radio and with an ease which has already grown practiced, gently lay my finger upon the VFO knob. And begin the slow dance I have already fallen in love with.

On a motorcycle, soft hands might be the difference between living and dying. Here, it's nothing nearly so dramatic. But, still, it's important. It's the difference between making the contact, or not. And the gearhead in me is deeply impressed with the weighted smoothness of the control, its delicacy, its lovely precision.

First, the tour from 14.350 down to 14.225, pausing a few times at the QSO's in progress. Just like always.

Then a quick click down to 40 meters, and the same thing there.

I quickly debate calling CQ. And just as quickly decide against it. Partly because of the mic shyness which still holds sway. Partly because I want to try something else. Something new.

Turning to the laptop, I click a couple times. With the skimmer lit, the graphic of the globe rotates to North America, with the glowing dot of my own location in the mid-Atlantic superimposed with my call sign.

It only takes a few seconds. And then there's the pinging sound and my radio changes frequency and the globe on my Mac rotates on around. We're off to the races.

What I've already learned about Ham Radio is that people not in the hobby think it's about talking. But they're wrong. It's about listening.

And so that's what I do. Listening to the pings and watching the map roll around and hearing the voices. Lingered there.

For years I've gone into the November woods with rifle in hand, climbing the steep ridges behind camp in the dark. Emerging hours later in a different place. A place lit by desire and exultation and hope and excitement. Breathing the clean, sharp air and feeling for the patterns of the earth. Seeking to discern the endless, aching puzzle in front of me.

I don't know much, but I already know that radio is like that. There's something ethereal in it.

My heart ratchets when I hear a station in Puerto Rico. Fifteen hundred miles. Never worked. But although I've got him solid coming in, he never hears me. After ten minutes I reluctantly move on.

The minutes tick by. Skimming and tuning and adjusting this and tweaking that.

Changing bands once again, the clear, British accent catches my attention. Posting up his call sign, at first I don't believe it. Surely I heard this wrong?

But, no. I listen as he works carefully through QSO after QSO. Soft spoken, unhurried, his cadence is polished and smooth. I envy his poise.

I'm utterly gobsmacked that I can hear him. I think of my little barefoot rig and its 40-meter OCF dipole. That little strand of wire runs almost directly north-south, not nearly high enough. And although I've been pleasantly surprised at how its off-the-ends performance has been – north to Canada and south to Florida both seem a cakewalk – this is something totally beyond the ken.

The Falkland Islands!

Reaching for the mug off to the side, I take one last swallow of coffee. Then I grasp the boom on the Heil and pull it down. Turning to the radio, I hit the 'VOX' button. Waiting patiently, it doesn't take long.

I make several calls. Nothing. And no surprise. I can't imagine he can possibly hear me.

Glancing at the Kenwood, my eyes quickly scan the display. A touch verifies that I'm putting out every one of my hundred, hard-won watts. I think to adjust the pass band filter. But, no. At 1400 hertz I'm already narrower than I need to be. And I can hear him just fine.

I shake my head at the S-meter every time he comes through. Never higher than 5-3, but clear as can be. Just like on 6 meters yesterday. What a difference a low noise floor makes!

Thinking back to the spreadsheet I made the afternoon I hung my antenna, the one where I filled in the SWR readings for each of the bands, I remember that 10 meters was only okay. Reaching forward, I press the 'AT' button. It only takes a second to get the beep from the internal tuner.

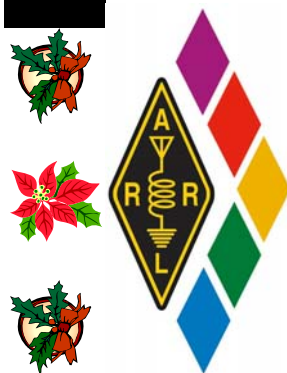
Back in, it's like false casting into the dying light at dusk. The rises felt and sensed more than seen. But then there's that ineffable moment when you *know*. Even before the 3-weight line and 6x leader fall upon the water.

Back through the ether his reply comes. To me.

God, I love this!





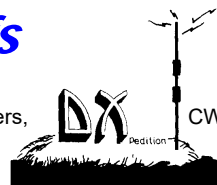


# ARRL Field Day 2016 Results for the WPa Section



| Call          | Score | Class | TOTAL QSOS | Power Multiplier |
|---------------|-------|-------|------------|------------------|
| N3Q           | 1,316 | 1AC   | 483        | 2                |
| KE3TK         | 324   | 1B1   | 37         | 2                |
| AB3RU         | 750   | 1B1B  | 50         | 5                |
| W1HR          | 1,648 | 1B2   | 472        | 2                |
| KA3KSP        | 114   | 1C    | 32         | 2                |
| N3CU          | 2,326 | 1D    | 544        | 2                |
| K3UA          | 1,726 | 1D    | 445        | 2                |
| <b>W3WH</b>   | 1,384 | 1D    | 355        | 2                |
| W3AG          | 618   | 1D    | 142        | 2                |
| W3RP          | 480   | 1D    | 138        | 2                |
| ND3R          | 372   | 1D    | 89         | 2                |
| AK3G          | 346   | 1D    | 148        | 2                |
| WO3T          | 278   | 1D    | 64         | 2                |
| KB3ZVH        | 186   | 1D    | 68         | 2                |
| KC3AAF        | 78    | 1D    | 14         | 2                |
| NP2EP         | 70    | 1D    | 10         | 2                |
| K3CSF         | 668   | 1E    | 138        | 2                |
| W3SVJ         | 510   | 1E    | 205        | 2                |
| KB3ORR        | 90    | 1E    | 20         | 2                |
| W3MIE         | 4,024 | 2A    | 1,009      | 2                |
| W3PIE         | 1,994 | 2A    | 536        | 2                |
| KA3PMW        | 1,710 | 2A    | 620        | 2                |
| W3HRK         | 668   | 2A    | 87         | 2                |
| K3SMT         | 556   | 2E    | 148        | 2                |
| W3YA          | 6,026 | 3A    | 4,338      | 1                |
| W3OC          | 4,590 | 3A    | 1,070      | 2                |
| W3CSL         | 2,506 | 3A    | 451        | 2                |
| W3ACH         | 2,196 | 3A    | 329        | 2                |
| <b>N3SH</b>   | 2,090 | 3A    | 527        | 2                |
| W3BMD         | 1,988 | 3A    | 573        | 2                |
| W3TCA         | 1,374 | 3A    | 287        | 2                |
| K3GT          | 1,306 | 3A    | 294        | 2                |
| W3SGJ         | 1,264 | 3A    | 327        | 2                |
| W3YXE         | 1,260 | 3A    | 105        | 2                |
| N3AQC         | 6,590 | 3AB   | 614        | 5                |
| K3NQT         | 2,184 | 3F    | 479        | 2                |
| <b>WA3COM</b> | 4,486 | 4A    | 1,060      | 2                |
| K3MJW         | 5,088 | 4E    | 1,303      | 2                |
| W3GV          | 3,162 | 4E    | 772        | 2                |
| W3UDX         | 4,382 | 5A    | 1,160      | 2                |
| N3NIA         | 1,954 | 5A    | 302        | 2                |
| WX3SKY        | 2,438 | 6A    | 554        | 2                |
| W3ZIC         | 2,516 | 7A    | 379        | 2                |
| W3LIF         | 7,686 | 7E    | 2,466      | 2                |

## DX News Briefs



UA4WHX is now QRV as **5T9VB**. Length of stay is unknown. He has been reported on 30, 20 & 17 meters, SSB & RTTY, and may be on other bands over the next week. QSL via UA4WHX — UA4WHX, OPDX

GØCKV is now QRV as **3B9HA** from AF-017 through 12 December, Holiday Style focusing on the low bands, primarily CW. QSL via MØOXO — DX World, OPDX

**VP5CW** and **VP5/W5CW** are again QRV from the VP5JM QTH through 13 December. QSL via W5CW — W5CW

JA6WFM is now QRV as **A31MM** from OC-049 through the end of 2017, 160 - 10. QSL via EA5GL — OPDX

VU2CPL and VU3NXI plan to be QRV from Kavaratti Island AS-011 in the Lakshadweep Islands as **VU7MS**, 29 November through 2 December. They will be QRV Holiday Style 40, 20, 17 & 15 CW & SSB, operating split near the IOTA frequencies as much as possible. QSL via VU2CPL. More details on their QRZ.COM pages — VU2CPL, OPDX

**ZS1OIN** will be QRV as RI1ANA from Molodezhnaya Base, AN, early December through early April, 160—10. QSL via ZS1OIN — DX World

**PJ4/NA9Q** will be QRV 4—10 December, 40—10, SSB RTTY & CW, including the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. QSL via NA9Q—NA9Q

VK3FY will be QRV as **3D3FY** from OC-019 6 -14 December, Holiday style, 80-10, CW & SSB. QSL via MØOXO — DX World

VK1MA will be QRV as **VK9NM** from OC-005 19 - 26 December, during a family holiday. He will be making some SOTA trips to Mt. Bates while there. QSL via VK1MA — VK1MA

Members of the Qatar Amateur Radio Society will be QRV as **A7ØX** from AS-088 1 - 7 January, HF, CW SSB & Digital. QSL via MØOXO — A71EM

Several Brazilian amateurs will be QRV from Couves Island SA-028 as **ZV2CV** 7 & 8 January, 80 - 10. QSL via PY2XIX— DX World

GØGSB will again be QRV as **ZC4SB** 11 - 25 January, 80 40 & 20 meters, CW & SSB. QSL via GØGSB — GØGSB

DF2WO will be using the unusual call **9XB954** during February & March 2017. More details forthcoming. QSL via MØOXO — OPDX

**TL8TT** will be QRV from the Italian DXpedition Team 1 - 14 February, 160 - 10, CW SSB & Digital (RTTY only on 20). More information at <http://www.hamradioweb.net> or <http://www.i2ysb.com/itd>. QSL via I2YSB

## QSL Routes

9XB954 via MØOXO — KB8NW

6Y9X via K1XM — K1XM

8P5A via NN1N — NG3K

A52NH via JAØJHQ — JAØJHQ

A31MM via EAS5GL — KB8NW

A44A via A47RS — A47RS

A52NH via JAØJHQ — KB8NW

A7ØX via MØOXO — QARS

AH2R via JH7QXJ — KB8NW

CN2AA via UA2FM — KB8NW

ES9C via ES5RY — ES5RY

HSØAC via E21EIC — E21EIC

MD2N via MMØGPZ — MMØGPZ

OF9X via OH2HSJ — OH2BH

PZ5V via MØURX — Voodoo Contest Group

RI1ANA via ZS1OIN — ZS1OIN

TL8AO via MØOXO — MØOXO

UA2F via UA2FM — UA2FM

UP2L via UA9AB — UP2L

V26K via AA3B — AA3B

VP5CW via W5CW — W5CW

XX9TKB via IV3SKB — VR2XAN

XX9TXN via VR2XAN — VR2XAN

XZ1A via JH1AJT — JH1AJT

ZC4SB via GØGSB — GØGSB

ZL7/W1GXI via JA1XGI — JA1XGI

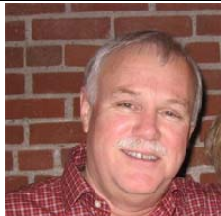
ZS8Z via ZS1LS — KB8NW

## Silent Keys



Pete Cole N3RNX, 70, Dacula GA,  
formerly of Mt. Lebanon PA

November 2<sup>nd</sup>



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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## NCVEC Question Pool Committee Seeks Comments on Tech Question Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) is reviewing the 2014-2018 Technician question pool for revisions and updates. The QPC will accept comments and suggestions from the Amateur Radio community [via e-mail](#) through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

The NCVEC QPC will take all comments and suggestions into consideration as it updates the Technician question pool for 2018-2022. Input from the Amateur Radio community may include suggestions for new questions, changes to the topic areas, or changes to existing questions in any of the current Amateur Radio examination question pools.



The annual **SKYWARN** Recognition Day (**SRD**) on-the-air activity will take place Saturday, December 3, from 0000 until 2400 UTC (starts on the evening of Friday, December 2, in US time zones).

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and ARRL to honor the contributions that SKYWARN volunteers make to the NWS mission — the protection of life and property during threatening weather. During the SKYWARN Special Event, hams will operate from several NWS offices. W1AW will take part in the event.

The object of the event is for all participating Amateur Radio stations to exchange contact information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters plus 70 centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

Stations will exchange call signs, signal reports, locations, and a one or two-word description of the weather at their respective locations (e.g., "sunny," "rainy," "partly cloudy," "windy"). NWS stations will use various modes, including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While using digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call signs (e.g., NØA/NWS).

Event certificates will be electronic and printable from the main website after the conclusion of SRD. An [online submission form](#) is available to submit your log summary for SRD.

## FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 — Work continues to promote the visibility of Amateur Radio enforcement within the FCC, the ARRL Executive Committee was told recently. The EC met on October 22 in Rosemont, Illinois. ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, chaired the session.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD, reported that meetings have been held with the FCC concerning more effective FCC use of the volunteer resources of the Amateur Auxiliary (Official Observers) program, the current FCC-ARRL Amateur Auxiliary Agreement, and the development of a new *Memorandum of Understanding* that better incorporates the Amateur Auxiliary program — especially in light of the FCC's recent closing of field offices and reduction of Spectrum Enforcement Division staff.

The EC directed Second Vice President Brian Milesosky N5ZGT, to continue work on the review and revitalization of the Amateur Auxiliary, in cooperation with the FCC, to ensure active use of the Amateur Auxiliary program.

In other FCC-related issues. The EC provided guidance in the domestic implementation of the worldwide Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz, agreed upon at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) last fall. Delegates to WRC-15 reached consensus on 15 kilohertz-wide band, 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, with stations limited to an effective isotropic radiated power (**EIRP**) of 15 W.

Imlay, in conjunction with ARRL International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows KØQB, and Midwest Division Director Rod Blocksme KØDAS, will review of the National Broadband Plan, with an eye toward determining any impact it might have on Amateur Radio allocations.

In addition, Imlay and West Gulf Division Director Dr David Woolweaver K5RAV, will meet with officials of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and congressional offices to address the effect on Amateur Radio antenna systems between 50 and 200 feet tall of new painting and lighting requirements required under the FAA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 636).

ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF told the panel that several new educational initiatives under way, and, as those pilot programs are assessed and refined, the programs will be made available to the Amateur Radio community.

In his report, Bellows told the EC that the IARU Administrative Council has begun preparations to represent Amateur Radio at various meetings to be held in advance of World Radiocommunication Conference 2019.

[Minutes](#) of the October 22 meeting are available on the ARRL website.

Authorities in Georgia recently arrested two men who said they were planning to attack the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility near Gakona, Alaska. Michael Vickers, a detective with the Coffee County Sheriff's Office, [told Alaska Dispatch News](#) that the pair explained to authorities "that God told them to go and blow this machine up that kept souls, so souls could be released."

"Yes, that news caused a bit of a stir," said Chris Fallen KL3WX, a faculty member at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF), which now operates the HAARP facility. "I can also confirm that no souls are stored at HAARP."

Long of interest to the Amateur Radio community as well as a target of various mind and weather-control conspiracies, HAARP is now operated as an ionospheric research facility by the UAF, which took it over last year from the US Air Force.

Police also seized a "massive" arsenal of weapons the individuals had apparently planned to use in attacking the remote facility. According to a [WALB TV news account](#), investigators discovered the plot after they began looking into possible drug sales by one of the men. A local gun shop also alerted authorities that the same individual was attempting to buy a large number of weapons. — Thanks to [Alaska Dispatch News](#) & other media

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

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

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**



## Hamvention 2017 Plans Proceeding

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 — With just 6 months to go until [Hamvention®](#) debuts at its new [Greene County Fairgrounds and Event Center](#) venue in Xenia, Ohio, May 19-21, General Chair Ron Cramer KD8ENJ, and Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) Board Member Mike Kalter, W8CI assure that all is progressing smoothly. Cramer and Kalter made another appearance (the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>) on [Amateur Radio Roundtable](#), hosted by Tom Medlin W5KUB, to update progress on preparations for the all-new Hamvention. Cramer and Kalter said they continue to be bombarded with questions, concerns, and rumors regarding how the event will be staged.

"You have to remember, we're starting from the ground up," Cramer said. "So it's taken a while to get things going." He asked for patience from prospective visitors, but he and Kalter told Medlin that the vast all-volunteer team has everything well in hand and that plans are coming together. Both maintained that those attending Hamvention 2017 "will be very impressed."

Cramer predicted parking would not be an issue, and that there would be plenty of room for the anticipated number of vehicles, with overflow parking available and transportation to the buildings housing the vendors and events from the parking areas, as needed.

Traffic and transportation logistics are being addressed, Cramer said, and Hamvention is working with four police departments as well as a professional traffic planner to ensure that all goes smoothly.

Cramer said Hamvention 2017 tickets will become available starting in December — a bit earlier than in past years. The cost of admission will rise by \$2 from the 2016 price of \$20 for advanced tickets and \$25 for those purchased at the gate. But, he pointed out, there will be no parking charges on site.

The Hamvention website is yet to be updated to reflect the 2017 event, but Cramer and Kalter said that both indoor and outdoor layout maps will be made available online in advance of the show, and these will be included in the Hamvention program as well.

Kalter said he and Cramer continue to hear concerns about the outdoor flea market, which will be sited within the racing oval. Kalter said some prospective attendees worry that the grassy area will become muddy if it rains. "That is not true," he assured viewers of the program. "They have a very nice drainage system there." He said parking areas also are equipped with adequate drainage.

Hamvention also expects to provide Internet connectivity throughout the new venue, which encompasses more than 100 acres. Hamvention sponsor DARA has a 3-year commitment at the new venue, which has served primarily as home to agricultural fairs and events in the past. Hamvention announced in August that it would be relocating to Xenia, following the closure of Hara Arena, where the show took place for more than 50 years.

The *Amateur Radio Roundtable* show included a DX Engineering-produced [video](#) shot from a drone operated by Greg Ordy W8WWV, and narrated by DX Engineering's Tim Duffy K3LR.



Aerial view of Greene County Fairgrounds courtesy of Greg Ordy W8WWV and DX Engineering

## HARA Arena Items on Auction Block

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 — Starting on Thanksgiving Day, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and continuing until November 30<sup>th</sup>, online auctioneer [Everything But the House](#) will be taking bids on a variety of items from the former home of Dayton Hamvention®, which took place in the Trotwood, Ohio, facility for more than 50 years. Hara's owners, the Wampler family, had attempted for years to put Hara on a profitable plane but were unsuccessful.

"We were overwhelmed by the number, and variety, of requests we received from people hoping to get a Hara keepsake," Hara Marketing Director Karen Wampler said in a *Dayton Daily News* [article](#). "We were approached by brides who wanted a chandelier from their reception hall, concert goers who wanted a picture or backstage pass from their favorite show, [and] life-long hockey fans who wanted a Hara seat or banner."

Hara held an "Odds and Ends Sale" in mid-October to shed what it called "an odd and eclectic assortment that includes glassware, seasonal decorations, candles, vases, tables, chairs, lockers, food service displays, office supplies, pretzel warmers, hot chocolate machines, sporting, refrigeration and catering equipment, and much more." In late August, Hara offered all comers a chance to visit the landmark facility one last time.

The arena announced its closing in late July.

Hamvention, which has relocated to the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, has attracted more than 25,000 visitors each spring and was worth millions of dollars in terms of annual economic impact for the Greater Dayton area.

All items start at a \$1 bid. According to the *Dayton Daily News*, the auction will include "a limited number of Hara Arena and Cincinnati's Crosley Field seats, Hara signage, photos, posters, sports and event memorabilia, sports equipment, chandeliers, catering items, tables and chairs."

An estate sale for Ralph and Edna Wampler will run concurrently on the same auction website.

The Wampler family has owned and operated Hara Arena since its humble origins in the 1950s, when Wampler Ballarena — then a dance hall and now an exhibit hall familiar to Hamvention visitors — was built in what had been a family-owned orchard.

Over its 6-decade history, Hara Arena hosted concerts by performers that included the Rolling Stones and the Grateful Dead; it also was where hockey great Wayne Gretzky played his first professional hockey game.



The *Mumbai Mirror* [reports on the mystery signals](#) in 144-146 MHz from the Arabian Sea which have been baffling radio amateurs

The newspaper says: Though the signals have been picked up by their VHF wireless radios since the past five months or so, they became suspicious after they tracked them down to the deep sea off Maharashtra-Gujarat coasts, said Ham Radio Operators Mumbai spokesperson Ankur Puranik VU2AXN. "We have written to the Wireless Advisor, Ministry of Telecommunications and IT, with copies to the PMO, other ministries, and top defence and police officials to take note and investigate these unknown signals," Puranik told IANS.

They sent the memorandum to the Centre after analysing the signals with their direction-finding equipment and antennae and were alarmed to learn they originated around 100 nautical miles in the high seas off the Maharashtra-Gujarat coast.

"They are encroaching on our allotted bandwidth 144-146MHz for our two-way radio, they don't use the compulsory 'call sign' by which each ham radio operator in the world can be identified and tracked, and they speak in a language we can't understand," Puranik explained. — *Southgate Amateur Radio News Service*



# FCC's Laura Smith Speaks!

Southgate Amateur Radio News Service

We haven't heard a lot from FCC Special Counsel **Laura Smith** lately, but she spoke at Pacificon, a large ham conference in the San Francisco area, last October.

**Gary Pearce KN4AQ** says: "Her talk was recorded by **Bob Miller WB6KWT** and his son **Robert KA7JKP**, and Bob gave us permission to use the talk for HamRadioNow." Gary adds a long intro (typical HamRadioNow style), with a summary of the talk's highlights and a few comments, along with a status report on the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZIP4OUFeI8>. Laura Smith's comments begins at the 24:21 minute mark.

Be aware that there were some issues with the PA system, so the audio has issues at some points.

Highlights from the video include:

- 0:24:21 Laura Smith begins, notes that she's been on leave for two years
- 0:25:38 Enforcement position moved in FCC
- 0:26:44 Online Enforcement Complaint System
- 0:33:19 Lots of NAL's & Forfeiture Orders
- 0:34:23 Stay away from 'the problem frequencies'
- 0:39:12 Bad reputation among some FCC staff
- 0:39:45 Hams with felony convictions
- 0:46:38 OO Program revamp coming
- 0:49:34 More aggressive policing of Ham Bands
- 0:51:58 Ham's participation in rulemaking comments critical
- 1:03:07 Your Repeater: Your Rules

Photo of Laura Smith (left) at Pacificon 2016 taken from video recording by Bob Miller WB6KWT and Robert Miller KA7JKP



## KM4IPF Special Event from "Last Man Standing" Set

HamRadio.World via Southgate Amateur Radio News Service

10 year-old Hope Lee KM4IPF has announced that she will be operating a special event amateur radio station from the set of the popular ABC TV show "Last Man Standing" on December 6<sup>th</sup>. After her operation, she will be writing an article for CQ Magazine about her experience.

The video can be found at [https://youtu.be/X\\_lcmxEXTQ4](https://youtu.be/X_lcmxEXTQ4)

Hope earned her amateur license at the age of 8 and her first contact was via the amateur radio satellite FO-29. She achieved her Extra class license in June 2016 aged 9.

"Last Man Standing" stars Tim Allen KK6OTD, who plays radio amateur Mike Baxter KA0XTT. First aired in 2011 the sixth season is currently being broadcast. Inspired by show Producer John Amodeo NN6JA, more than two dozen members of the show's cast and crew have now earned their Amateur Radio licenses, and the show now has a working club station at the set, KA6LMS.



Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, marked the third birthday in space for the 985 gram spacecraft **FUNcube-1 / AO73**

FUNcube-1 was launched at 07:10 UT on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and its first signals were received immediately after deployment over the Indian Ocean by amateurs in South Africa. Since then it has been operating continuously in either its education mode or, with the transponder active, in amateur mode when in eclipse and at weekends.

The FUNcube team are very grateful to everyone who has been contributing their telemetry records to the Data Warehouse and also to those who are using FUNcube-1 for educational outreach to schools and colleges around the world. This important part of our mission is intended to encourage young people to develop an interest and passion in all STEM subjects for their future.

The spacecraft is operating nominally – the telemetry indicates that all the sub-systems are fine. The battery voltages, solar panel charge currents and on board temperatures are virtually unchanged since launch.

In addition to FUNcube-1, there are now similar FUNcube transponders operating in low earth orbit on the UKube-1 and EO79/QB50p1 CubeSats.

The team has recently contributed to the development of Nayif-1, which is presently awaiting launch, and is currently working on a number of further CubeSat and microsat projects.

Happy Birthday AO73!

AO-73 (FUNcube-1) website: <https://amsat-uk.org/funcube/funcube-website/>

FUNcube Yahoo Group : <https://amsat-uk.org/funcube/yahoo-group/>



AO-73/FUNcube-1 photo courtesy of Wouter Weggelear PA3WEG





# WASHfest 2017

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

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

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

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

**Home Economics Building, South Park**

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

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 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!

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

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

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

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

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

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

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 !)

☐ **1st Qtr**  
**Jan-Mar**

☐ **2nd Qtr**  
**Apr-Jun**

☐ **3rd Qtr**  
**Jul-Sept**

☐ **4th Qtr**  
**Oct-Dec**

☐ (F1) Full Membership:

\$20.00

\$15.00

\$10.00

\$5.00

☐ (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:

\$10.00

\$7.50

\$5.00

\$2.50

☐ (A1) Associate Membership:

\$10.00

\$7.50

\$5.00

\$2.50

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

New Members Only:

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

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

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



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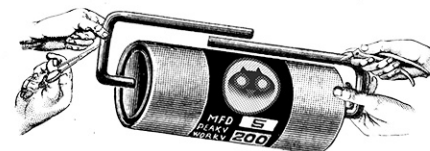
The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,  
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



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



**HANDMADE BY GNOMES.**



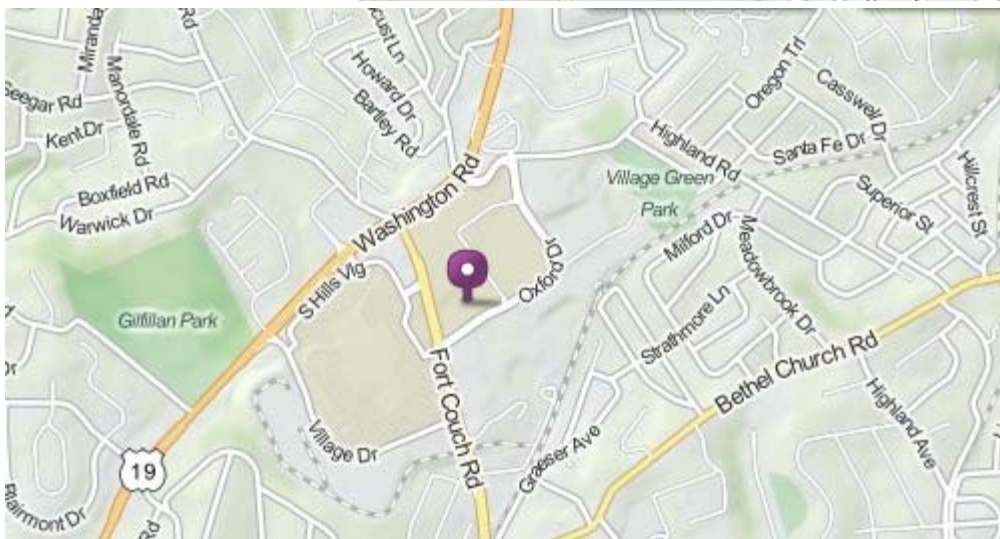
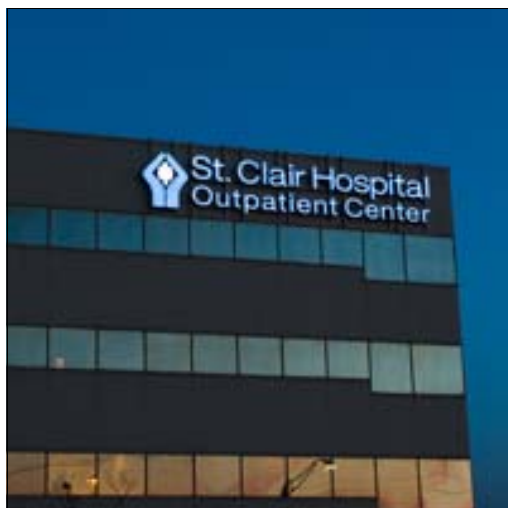
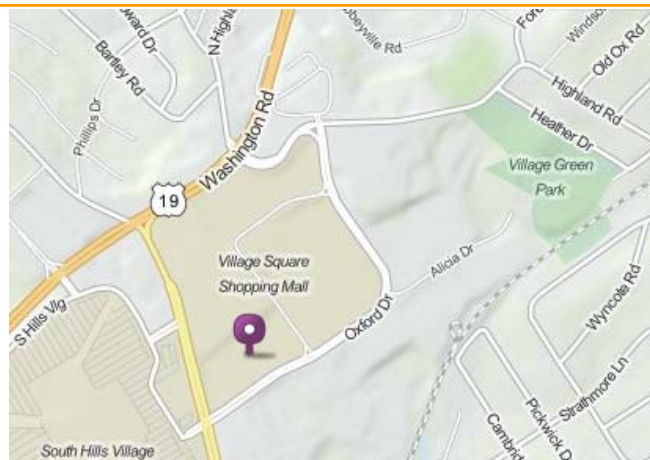
# 2016 WASH Meeting

## 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

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