



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 01
JANUARY 2017

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



WASH RAG™



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 01

JANUARY 2017

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, January 5th, 2017

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, January 5th 2017**, 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: Outgoing President Carol Danko KB3GMN "passing the gavel" to Incoming President Glen Roberts KE7FD after the end of the December club meeting.

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 WASH Rag"™ (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 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, its members, or its 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 its 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@n3sh.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

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

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

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

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

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

2017 test dates: Remaining Dates TBA

Glen's Musings



Happy 2017! It's a new year and what a year it will be. There is a lot on the calendar and something for everyone. First I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Carol KB3GMN, to Ben KB3ERQ as the outgoing President and Vice President/Secretary respectively and to Mark N3RDV VP/Treasurer for all the hours of dedication spent on WASH's behalf.

Mark, thank you for your renewed support going forward and to Harold K3HCR as our new VP/Secretary.

The next big thing for WASH and the general Amateur community in the area is the **WASH 2M Simplex Contest** held on January 14th, 2017. It's always a fun night to get on the air and anyone with an HT or bigger can participate. Now's the time to home brew a bigger antenna if needed, sharpen the pencils, print off some log sheets and gas up the mobile platform. (It is not official but I have submitted paperwork to various judicial and legislative committees to grant an additional 1,000 points to mobile stations since without them, the contest would not be as exciting as it is. That again is not official so for now everyone is bound by the rules published elsewhere in this newsletter.) I want everyone to submit a log to qualify for a free drawing ticket at **WASHFest**, our

Continued on Page 16

QCWA has made a "notable contribution" to the **ARISS** project to help support the development and certification of new Amateur Radio hardware for the International Space Station. The effort was made more urgent on by the October failure of the 17 year old VHF HT in the ISS Columbus module. Donations toward the hardware upgrade can be made via the **AMSAT** website **ARISS** donation page.

Saturday, December 31st, the morning of New Year's Eve, seemed a fine time for the faithful of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** to gather once again at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg, and reflect on the both the past and the coming year. In the gang this month, one of the largest gatherings we've seen for a while, were KB3JHR, K3CHR, W3WH, N3DFK, N3FB, WB4GCS, KB3GMU, KB3GMN, N3SBF, N1NCZ, KA1NID, N3BPB & Jan, and W3WN. Amongst the many topics were Maine Gets Snow!, New Year's Eve plans, "He looks like my son-in-law!", looking into new cars, "no cinnamon buns", repurposing the money clip, battery charging and bad alternators, generators, Field Day scores, Christmas Tree Light issues, muzzle loaders & hunting season, "We're Late. I blame myself.", medical surgeries and recoveries, DNA Testing for Ancestry.com, **WASH** breakfast locations through the years, does & pumpkins, a motion to have the club pay for everyone's breakfast! (it lacked a quorum), "They looked like two cats that ate the canary", inactive repeaters... and a great deal more.

Hope to see you and the rest of the Gang can join us for the first **WASH** breakfast of the year, on Saturday, January 28th 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!

Yes, there has been a lot going on this month, hasn't there? It's been a while since we had a 22 page issue... But don't let that dissuade you. If you have an article you'd like to write, something you have to say, we can always find a way to accommodate you.

Good to hear again from **Paul NØVLR**. With his permission, his recent article from the ARRL ARES Letter is included in this issue.

If you haven't already noticed, we have a **"goodbye and thanks"** message from outgoing WPA Section Manager Tim Duffy K3LR on page 5, and a **"welcome and thanks"** message from incoming WPA Section Manager Joe Shupienis W3BC on page 18. Why page 18? Because the message came in almost literally at the last moment prior to wrapping this up, and we didn't have the time reshuffle some articles around.

With the new year on us, 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 in two weeks (as of deadline), 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!

The basic rules for the 2017 running of the **2 Meter Simplex contest** are on Page 19. You will find the "packet" including the rules, FAQ, entry form and log sheets on the N3SH web site; just click on the link on the home page, <http://www.n3sh.org>

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.

The updated **2017 WASHNET NCS Schedule** wasn't available to us by deadline. Please check the club website for the latest schedule, available at http://www.n3sh.org/net_schedule.htm.

Check into **WASHNET** lately?

WASHNet NCS Schedule

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 01/02/2017 | TBA | 02/27/2017 | 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 |
| 01/30/2017 | TBA | 03/27/2017 | TBA |
| 02/06/2017 | TBA | 04/03/2017 | TBA |
| 02/13/2017 | Digital Net | 04/10/2017 | Digital Net |
| 02/20/2017 | TBA | 04/17/2017 | TBA |

Indicates Swap Net After the Regular Net

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 21

Minutes, December 1st Meeting

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

Carol KB3GMN, called the meeting to order at 19:01 hours. 15 members 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 Fred KB3DCO, second by Fred KB3DCO to accept. 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): "Working"

WASHNet (KC3ELA): Attendance is on it's way back up. Ideas on improving attendance were requested.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Contests (K3VX): Upcoming events in the newsletter. ARRL 160 Meter contest is this weekend, ARRL 10 meter the following weekend. **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex contest coming up on January 14th.

WASHFest 2017 (KB3GMN):

- + ARRL approval received. Gift certificates already in hand.
- + 10 tables already sold AND paid for.
- + Universal Radio gave best prices for main prizes
- + Motion by Glen KE7F, second by Eric K3SGT to allocate funds to pay for main and black box prizes. Approved unanimously.
- + Rick KB3IAC will be running the kitchen again.
- + Bud N3TIR is going to held with email notifications. One bulk email to go out about a month before, a second about a week before.
- + Larry K3VX has received the 501.c.3 discount on the hall rental from the County
- + We need to figure out how we're going to run a PA system in the new building.

Public Service (N3RDV): Next event will be at St. Patrick's day. Rick KB3IAC is still waiting on word from Venard regarding club participation in the December 13th SCH simulated emergency test.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KB3GMN): Carol announced she was "sort of sad, sort of glad" to be stepping aside, and told everyone that Glen KE7FD will do a great job. She thanked everyone for their confidence and their support for the last few years, especially at Hamfest time. (applause)

Carol also announced that the Kilowatt Award for 2016 is being awarded to Mark Stabryla N3RDV in recognition of all of his hard work over the years while serving as Treasurer. (applause)

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 19:22.



WASH Spotlight: Breakfast

The **WASH Breakfast Gang** as gathered at Suzie B's on New Year's Eve morning.

Starting clockwise, from the left: N1NCZ, KB3JHR, K3HCR, W3WH, N3DFK, N3FB, WB4GCS, KB3GMU, KB3GMN, N3SBF, KA1NID

Not shown: W3WN, N3BPB & Jan



Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 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 **Suzie 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

| 2017 | 2016 | KE7FD | WASH FL | WASH TN | Silent |
|--------|--------|--------|----------|-------------|--------|
| AB3ED | AA3GM | K15ZT | KA3UPY/M | K3OL | Keys |
| AB3NM | AE3DL | N3DFK | W4ZE | KE3XB | |
| K3SGT | K3HCR | N3FB | WASH NE | N3YPB | AB3KA |
| K3VX | KB3GMU | N3IDH | N0PEU | WASH TX | K3EED |
| KA3VXM | KB3IAC | N3KFD | WASH OR | NB3C | K3LIE |
| KB3DCO | KB3IVX | N3RDV | N0VLR | K3LGM | KA3NMG |
| KB3GMN | KB3JHR | N3RHT | N0WVPV | KB3JX | KB3ENX |
| N1NCZ | KB3ORO | NU3Q | KB3NVL | Jane Wagner | KB3FNM |
| N3SBF | KB3RVI | W3KTW | KB3NVM | WASH VI | KB3FQT |
| W3WH | KC3DOF | W3LE | WASH OH | NP2JF | KB3JHQ |
| WA3PYU | KC3ELA | W3VFA | N8DPW | | N3CZZ |
| WA3VSS | KC3HIK | W3WN | | | N3FZ |
| | KC3HNU | W4CKR | | | N3HKQ |
| | KC4WTT | WB4GCS | | | N3KEH |

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

Through January 1st, 2017
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

WA3JPP

2016 / 17 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| January 5 th | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| January 14 th | WASH 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 | WASH 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 | WASHFest 2017 | New Location! Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park |
| February 26 th | WASH VE Exam | |
| March 2 nd | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| 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 |
| April 6 th | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| May 4 th | WASH Meeting | St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park |
| May 19 th — 21 st | DAYTON HAMVENTION ® | Greene County Fairgrounds, Xenia OH |

Thanks For A Great Two Years & Welcome W3BC!



West Middlesex, PA, December 29th, 2016 — Thanks to all the Western PA ARRL members that made my tenure as WPA Section Manager a pleasure to serve these past two years. Starting January 1st, 2017, Joe Shupienis W3BC is the ARRL Western PA Section Manager. Joe has done a tremendous job as Affiliated Club Coordinator these past two years, so I am certain he will continue his commitment to help WPA grow.

Very 73 & Happy New Year! — Tim Duffy K3LR

K3LR photo courtesy of the K3LR.COM web site

"Seen" at the December Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Ron Notarius W3WN



You CAN Take It With You: Building a “Go Box” Station

Paul Lusardi NØVLR courtesy of the [ARRL ARES E-Letter](#)

Corvallis, OR, December 21st, 2016 — In this article I share both my experience with designing a versatile Go-Box, as well as my operating experiences outside of the shack. Consider the variety of locations you would like to operate from and let this project inspire you to enjoy similar experiences and convenience. Having participated in many field day events, as well as serving in various emergency/disaster communications response roles, I can attest to the benefit of having all the critical components conveniently pre-wired in one place. There is an added benefit to quickly adjust between diverse environments such as home, portable, and mobile operations without the hassle of installing and uninstalling radio equipment.

Background

Being a requirements engineer, I applied a systems approach to this project with the goals of developing a go-box that would be capable of HF, VHF, and UHF operation; easily transformed between a portable, mobile/rover, or home operating environment; usable for digital modes, using a sound card device and software where possible; lightweight enough to carry (e.g., through an airport terminal); and small enough for aircraft carry-on (i.e., 22x15x9). It was important for me to maximize the capabilities of my station while minimizing the weight and ensuring simplicity. The main focus was on packaging the three basic components of a station: transceiver, antenna tuner, and sound card interface. At the same time, a decision was made not to include a power supply, but rather rely on various power options that were particular to the environment I would be operating in, thus saving on total weight.

There are a number of HF/VHF/UHF radios on the market that offer multi-mode capabilities. Add to that a wide variety of sound card interfaces, a computer, and lastly, a general-purpose antenna tuner and you have the beginnings of a highly versatile station. As a concept shown in Figure 1, the commonly-used components could be packaged and pre-wired together in the go-box. Depending on the chosen operating environment, the user may substitute various accessories and antenna(s) as needed. Note: For safety and convenience, especially in a mobile environment, I recommend using a radio that has remote-head capabilities.

After some trial and error, I selected the MTM Case-Gard's sportsman utility dry (SPUD) box, specifically, the SPUD-2 model, as it has a comfortable carrying handle and provides enough depth, strength, and support needed to handle the weight of the radio gear.

The components I selected for this go-box were the [ICOM IC-706 Mark IIG](#) transceiver, the [LDG Z-100 Plus](#) autotuner with the radio interface cable, as well as the [Tigertronics Signalink](#) USB sound card interface, as seen in Figure 2. A small [Anderson Powerpole](#) junction box simplifies wiring. The total weight of this packaged solution is less than 17 pounds.

Operating Environments

Below are typical operating environments and special uses where you can safely and effectively operate the station. You should consider how many of these environments apply to your particular needs before designing your own packaged solution.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Mobile | A limited set of functions on HF/VHF/UHF with a remote head for driver safety and convenience. |
| Contesting Station | Add a headset and foot switch, and laptop computer, and it is ready for contest logging, DX Spotting, and digital sound card modes. The sound card interface can also act as a digital voice-keyer, saving you from calling CQ for hours on end. |
| Emergency Station | Perfect for quick setup, a quick-deploy NVIS antenna, and VHF vertical antenna for operating HF, VHF, or the popular e-mail over radio software such as Winlink Express . |
| Boating | Since many of the sensitive components are packaged securely, it is possible to operate this in a marine environment as well - consider harsh |

Additional Benefits of a Good Design:

- + Security of being able to easily remove the go-box from a vehicle when not in use
- + Quickly adaptable among various operating environments
- + Allows hams to only need one radio that serves multiple purposes

Continued on
Page 8

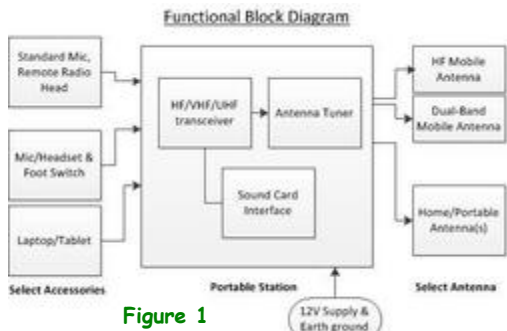


Figure 1



Figure 2



Just a few more pictures from the December 2016 WASH meeting



You CAN Take It With You continued from Page 7

Design Considerations

| Topic | Best Practice |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Component Monitoring | Bolts/nuts are best for installation, but Velcro should be sufficient for smaller components. Another option is to tie wrap components on to sanded plywood for good results. Mount radio on lower portion of box, using rubber feet to raise angle of radio for less strain when using controls. Put less-used materials on the top shelf. When mounting SO-239 connectors through the case, use star washers to keep the connectors in place. |
| Additional Accessories | As a convenience, add an external speaker, volt meter, USB port to charge small devices, and a dual-band DB-J2 roll-up antenna. |
| Documentation | Consider adding a manual or guide for your radio or create your own document for nontraditional (set and forget) settings (i.e., port speed for radio to computer communications, operating various digital modes software, and preferred audio settings for each). Print the document on laminated paper to fit neatly into the go-box. |
| Labeling | Don't forget to label all connectors. Also, print labels with your name and call sign inside the box and cover. |
| Mobile Use | If you wish to use the go-box as a mobile rig, the radio should have remote-head capability. Mounting the head unit remotely will provide additional space inside the box. |
| Air Travel | The go-box fits the aircraft carry-on bag size requirements; however, consider what you store in the case as there is an ever-growing list of |

The Guts of it All

The internals are very simple. A thin high-grade plywood shelf slides between parallel guides as seen in Figure 3. The power, coax, and braided cables need to be long enough to slide out with the shelf when accessing the components. Optional internal fused circuits for protection, or a small fan for cooling that may be needed during mobile operation, are not shown.

The top shelf holds less frequently-used components such as the Signalink and auto tuner. Therefore, the bottom shelf is reserved for more frequently used items such as the transceiver, thereby reducing arm muscle strain when in operation. Note, in Figure 4, there is a 1½" hole in the top shelf for passing wires through the shelf to the bottom of the go-box.

The bottom shelf is mainly for the radio with storage space for remote head or other accessories.

Pennsylvania QSO Party, 2016 - the shake-down

I traveled from my home in Oregon to operate in Pennsylvania with Randy George N3ZK and Frank Bobro N3FB, to test out my new go-box under multi-operator contest conditions. I was able to transport the go-box on board as an airline carry-on (with no fuss from airport security) easily fitting in the overhead compartment. For contesting in the

Pennsylvania QSO Party, I used a Heil headset, foot switch, and tablet computer. (Figure 5) I was surprised that with running pileups for two hours straight, the heat dissipation from the go-box was sufficient and no additional fans were required. [The N1MM contesting software](#) allowed sending digital voice recordings through Signalink, which worked very well.

The only additional piece of equipment I needed was a small folding table to hold the go-box, my computer, and I still had ample room for food and drink!

Conclusion

Building a go-box can be very rewarding and will definitely draw attention from fellow ham club members. Hopefully, I have inspired you to build your own go-box for those times when an out-of-shack operational need presents itself. Just to reiterate, it is important when designing your go-box to consider various operating environments; you never know when an emergency situation may arise that could depend on your services for communication to the outside world.

Paul Lusardi NØVLR is a member of the [Benton County \(OR\) ARES](#), [Benton County \(OR\) Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue](#), and [Oregon Disaster Medical Team](#), and is a long-time member & Past President of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS.

Figure 5 photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2016 Frank Bobro N3FB. All other photos courtesy of and © copyright 2016 Paul Lusardi NØVLR.



Congressman Greg Walden W7EQI (R-OR), who championed the Amateur Radio Parity Act (H.R. 1301) as the chair of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, will chair the US House Energy and Commerce Committee when the 115th Congress convenes in January. Energy and Commerce is considered one of the most powerful congressional panels on Capitol Hill.

Walden defeated the more senior Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) and Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) to succeed Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI). Upton is stepping down from the chairmanship because of term limits. Members of the House GOP Steering Committee elected Walden on December 1 in a closed-door meeting.

Walden gained favor within the Republican Party after serving two terms as head of the National Republican Congressional Committee. The nine-term Oregon lawmaker, had campaigned around the country with Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) during the run-up to the November election, and Walden's selection to head Energy and Commerce over a more senior colleague is being considered recognition of his role in the GOP's election successes. Ryan spoke in favor of Walden's candidacy to head Energy and Commerce.

Walden represents Oregon's second Congressional district.

— courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Ames vs. ARRL: Case Dismissed

Multiple Sources including eHam.net and QRZ.COM forums

On July 5th, 2016, Joseph A. Ames W3JY filed a [Civil complaint in the US District Court for the Eastern District Court of Pennsylvania](#), against the American Radio Relay League (*et. al.*) and three of its officers, Dr. James Boehner N2ZZ (ARRL Roanoke Division Director, and Chairman of the Programs & Services Committee), Tom Gallagher NY2RF (ARRL CEO), and Rick Roderick K5UR (ARRL President).

According to the [Civil Cover Sheet](#), the nature of the suit was "Assault, Libel, & Slander", citing 28 USC § 1332, and the Cause of Action was listed simply as "Defamation."

Although not specifically mentioned in detail on the Cover Sheet, it would appear that the reason for the suit is related to the [termination of all of Mr. Ames appointments in the ARRL Field Organization](#), including his position as Eastern Area Chair of the National Traffic System, and his removal as the ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania as of June 20th.

The removal of Mr. Ames from these positions was documented in [ARRL news briefs](#) and on the ARRL web site's [news pages](#), and are directly related to concerns that the ARRL had about Mr. Ames contact with staff at the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), which they believed came into conflict with the existing Memorandum of Understanding and working relationships that ARRL already had in place with FEMA.

The court also determined in their ruling that "Ames filed the present Complaint... alleging that the (ARRL News) Article "defamed him, harmed his reputation, and caused him emotional anguish." (*Id.* ¶¶ 42-52.)

The Civil Action was no. 16-03660

On July 14th, [a post was made](#) on the QRZ.COM forums demanding more "transparency" from the ARRL. The post by James Wades WB8SIW also claimed that a petition at "change.org" had been posted for that purpose, specifically pointed to this then-pending legal action, alleging that the actions that led to the suit had "exposed the organization to significant financial liabilities".

A motions was made on behalf of the defendants, dated August 22nd, to dismiss the suit, on the grounds of failure to state a claim. This was followed by responses in support of and against the motion.

Finally, a ruling was made by the court. On December 21st, Presiding Judge C. Darnell Jones ruled that [the motion of the Defendants to Dismiss the suit was granted](#), and that the complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

Many of the legal documentation in this and similar case are available, for a fee, to attorneys and/or to the general public. A 12 page PDF of the court order was downloaded by Mike Adams N1EN, and can be found on the QRZ.COM web site at <https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/arrl-gives-eastern-pa-section-manager-the-boot.527745/page-8#post-4085495>.

Rich DiDonna NN3W excerpted three key sentences from different sections of the court order (see below) that succinctly explain the reasoning for the judge's decision:

"This Court grants the Motion because the plaintiff's pleadings, including documents referenced therein and submitted by the parties, show on their face that the allegedly defamatory statements are true and, thus, cannot form the basis of a defamation claim as a matter of law."

"Truth is an affirmative defense [to defamation claims brought] under Pennsylvania law." Tucker v. Fischbein, 237 F.3d 275, 287 (3d Cir. 2001) (citing 42 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. § 8343(b)(1))

"Here, the plaintiff's own pleadings, including documents referenced in the Complaint and submitted by the parties, demonstrate that all three contested statements are true."

[*Editor's Note:* For the benefit of those who are not attorneys, nor watch a lot of actors playing them on television, a "dismissal with prejudice" is defined by [Nolo's Plain-English Law Dictionary](#) as meaning that "the court is saying that it has made a final determination on the merits of the case, and that the plaintiff (the party that filed the lawsuit) is therefore forbidden from filing another lawsuit based on the same grounds"]

Our thanks to Mike Adams N1EN for obtaining the PDF and posting it to the QRZ.COM web site, and to Rich DiDonna NN3W for his review of the document.

FCC Denies Expert Linear's Request for Waiver of 15 dB Rule, Petition Pending

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 27th, 2016 — The FCC has denied a request by [Expert Linears America LLC](#) to waive §97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules limiting amplifier gain. Expert, of Magnolia, Texas, distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy. Its waiver request, filed in June, would have allowed Expert to import an amplifier capable of exceeding the current 15 dB gain limitation as it awaits FCC action on its April petition ([RM-11767](#)) to revise the same Amateur Service rules. That petition remains pending. Expert has asserted that there should be no gain limitation on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service. Most commenters supported Expert's waiver request, but a couple of commenters — including FlexRadio — demurred.



"In light of the conflicting comments regarding the desirability of eliminating the 15 dB limitation, we conclude that waiving the limitation at this stage of the rulemaking proceeding would prejudice the rulemaking proceeding and prematurely dispose of commenters' concerns," the FCC said in denying the waiver. "Moreover, we agree with FlexRadio that granting Expert's waiver request while the rulemaking petition remains pending would provide an unfair market advantage for one equipment model over other manufacturers' RF power amplifiers that would still be limited by [the existing rules]."

The FCC said it would rather give full consideration to "the pending issues" and apply the result of the rulemaking proceeding to all Amateur Radio Service equipment. The Commission said rule waivers "generally" are not warranted "merely to accommodate technical parameters that are based solely on harmonization with the manufacturer's products available abroad."

The FCC said a minority of those commenting on the waiver request expressed concern that eliminating the 15 dB limitation would lead to an overall increase in power levels, "including transmissions that intentionally or unintentionally exceed the maximum power limit."

In its April rulemaking petition, Expert maintained that the 15 dB gain limitation is an unneeded holdover from the days when amplifiers were less efficient and the FCC was attempting to rein in the use of Amateur Service amplifiers by Citizens Band operators.

Although the FCC had proposed in 2004 to delete the requirement that amplifiers be designed to use a *minimum* of 50 W of drive power — and subsequently did so — it did not further discuss the 15 dB limit in the subsequent [Report and Order](#) in that proceeding.

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



The Greatest Lesson I Ever Learned...

Michael Cozzi KD8TUT courtesy of [the Island of Misfit Hams](#)

Lake Michigan Beach, MI, December 25th —Well, it's Christmas morning, and here's my traditional Christmas story documenting one of the deepest lessons I ever learned about life and technology. It's not gift wrapped, but it will have to do...

From my earliest years I was always playing with technology. My dad was pretty much a genius and started me listening to shortwave around age 5. So- I always got into this stuff, always building, hacking, modifying.... being kind of a geek... That's me.



So I'm about 11 or 12 years old and I had a Cobra 142GTL CB radio which had replaced a Hallicrafters CB3a- which I used to talk to friends and my dad while he was driving around. My dad had a 102 inch whip on the station wagon with the stereotypical tennis ball bumper in place.

The then new 142GTL was highly modifiable- some of those mods were illegal. The ones I wanted were in fact legal. There was a receive modification that increased sensitivity and a repair to the preamp in my D104- both of which seemed critical to me.

I was not qualified at this point to work on more than the rectifiers/power supplies. However I knew an "old guy" named Frank who was a design engineer for Clarion. He and I used to attend a "radio get together" held at a local restaurant. He was a ham, as many other attendees were.

So a phone call was made to Frank, and an appointment made. I then coerced my mom into taking me to Frank's basement radio shop for the modification since the radio would not survive the trip on my bicycle.

It was a summer day... hot.... green leaves turning over silver in the breeze. Can almost remember the smell- car exhaust and chlorophyll. Pratt avenue in Chicago... early August.

We got into Franks basement. Frank sometimes treated me like a peer (I liked that) and he asked me to participate by opening the radio. So I opened it up and started pointing out components to my mother- who's eyes were glazed over looking catatonic.

So I droned on... "this is the PLL chip".... "Here's the clarifier"..... "look here's the finals"...Of course, I did not really understand what the components did. Well a little... but I was just showing off- and arrogantly so.

Then all of a sudden Frank blurts out: "Shaddup... you sound like you know what you are talking about, but you don't, and I know it!"

Boy, I was humiliated. And my mother, who was a parent who enjoyed when I suffered, immediately liked Frank. I wasn't so sure anymore.

But Frank was a very smart guy... he did the mod... then explained it to me.... then we left. Mom was in a good mood the rest of the day.

Of course, the lesson: be sure you know what you know before talking. This was a huge influence on me.

Later in life I attended a conference at Northwestern University about fiber optics. We weren't hearing from vendors- we were watching a presentation by scientists about what was coming in 5 years — and I did not understand all of it. I remembered Frank while taking copious notes.

A few days later I called the main scientist who had presented and asked him to lunch, with the understanding I wanted to pick his brain. He said sure. So there we sat at this Indian restaurant, talking for almost 4 hours, as he educated me far beyond the points I missed. And I kept my mouth shut.

When we were finished- HE picked up the tab. We were friendly for many years after that and used to hang out. The information I learned from him gave me big wins professionally, and a friendship personally.

Thanks Frank. I keep my mouth shut a lot. Except for today.

Happy Holidays!!

RSGB Questions UK Regulator Ofcom Regarding New Interference Control Regulations

American Radio Relay League



Newington, CT, December 26th, 2016 — The Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee of the Radio Society of Great Britain ([RSGB](#)) still has wide-ranging [questions](#) for UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom concerning new Wireless Telegraphy Act Section 54 regulations that address radio-frequency interference (RFI) from in-service equipment. RSGB said that while its latest response "largely reiterates" points it's already made, it "still believes that a number of issues need resolution." For starters, RSGB has asked the regulator to better define what the new regulations mean by "apparatus."

Among other questions, RSGB wants to know "what is needed to get Ofcom to enforce against serious interference to Amateur Radio." The Society pointed out that Ofcom has acknowledged its enforcement powers with respect to undue interference, but the agency has said that compliance regulations must be in place in Section 54.

RSGB allowed that there may be some cases where victims of interference may take "reasonable steps" to alleviate the problem; this may not always be possible when a radio amateur is the victim, and it asked Ofcom to clarify what is reasonable. "The re-siting of wire antennas in small gardens may be quite unrealistic, as may be the advice not to use a particular beam heading," the RSGB said. "We should also like Ofcom to confirm that there is no obligation on amateurs to supply or pay for filtering or replacement of offending apparatus."

RSGB also said it wants answers regarding in-service equipment excluded from the new regulations. For example, RSGB noted, cables used for such applications as DSL and power line telecommunications are not included, as they do not generate electromagnetic emissions. "However, when coupled to other apparatus and charged with signals at radio frequencies, unbalanced cables will generate emissions fortuitously," RSGB said. "One of our members has posed the question that, if the cables increase the levels of emissions emanating from modems, then they must be at fault, so why have they been excluded? Emissions from VDSL at HF and at higher frequencies are becoming a major interference concern."

RSGB also asked if Ofcom will use the new regulations to act against solar photovoltaic installations as being "improperly installed," even when some of the apparatus is CE marked [i.e., European Union certified — *Ed.*] but the installation is causing severe or harmful interference nonetheless. "Even where [solar installations] are treated as collections of discrete 'apparatus' under [the Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive], Ofcom has simply walked away from cases saying they can do nothing as the 'apparatus' is CE marked," The Society said.

For its part, Ofcom has said it does not have a duty to enforce and cannot guarantee that interference will not occur. "When deciding whether to investigate or to take enforcement action, we are required to act reasonably and responsibly and maximize the use of resources and do so in a proportionate, accountable, transparent, and consistent way. We treat each case on its merits."

Mexico Not Yet Extending Operating Permission to Non-Mexican Radio Amateurs

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 14th, 2016 — Broad changes in Mexico's radiocommunication regulatory environment 2 years ago continue to hinder Amateur Radio licensing there and still do not provide reciprocal permission for non-Mexican radio amateurs to operate South of the Border. Mexico's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member society the Federation of Mexican Radio Amateurs (FMRE) has been working with the new regulator, the Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) to craft more Amateur Radio-friendly licensing procedures and regulations, and there has been a little positive movement. The new regulatory regime considers the radio spectrum as an exploitable resource, and all former Amateur Radio regulations have been deemed null and void. To help acquaint regulators with the nuances of Amateur Radio, all IFT administrative staff completed the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) Amateur Radio Administration Course last February, and this has yielded some positive results.



FMRE's new president, Alfonso "Poncho" Tamez XE2O — the son of a radio amateur and a DXer — is spearheading the society's negotiations with the IFT. At FMRE's National Convention in September, IFT Commissioner Adriana Labardini announced to loud cheers that her agency will get Amateur Radio licensing going again, after a 2-year delay. FMRE has estimated that of the 3,500 existing Mexican Amateur Radio licenses in place before the new law went into effect, more than 1,000 have expired and their renewal put on hold until the IFT works procedural details. She said the IFT expects to process more than 800 applications by year's end, with another batch of more than 1,400 to follow. An initial license will cost about \$30 US. One fly in the ointment: Amateurs must physically sign their "concession" at IFT when it's granted, but Mexico City is currently the only place they can do so. The status of Amateur Radio clubs also has been put in limbo by the new regulatory regime.

A revised IFT draft of Amateur Radio licensing procedures included specific provisions to grant Amateur Radio operating permission and to make licensing requirements more consistent with the nature of the Amateur Radio Service. But significant gaps still exist. At this point, it is not even necessary to take an examination to obtain an Amateur Radio license — called a "concession" — in Mexico.

While the IFT has not yet determined what to do about foreign radio amateurs wishing to operate in Mexico, the agency has received 45 petitions to do so and is considering how it can issue permits; a foreigner cannot obtain a license under the new law, but may be given permission to operate as XE#/<home call sign>. Further, no regulations are in place regarding power output, license classes, licensing zones, interference, and other regulatory aspects.

IARU Region 2 Area C Vice President Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, said a week doesn't go by in which Region 2 doesn't receive a request for help in obtaining a reciprocal license. On the other hand, Santoyo said, under the new rules, radio amateurs may loan their license to anyone, as long as operation will be within accepted parameters. "Therefore, it seems that the only way for a foreign amateur to operate is through a borrowed call sign," Santoyo said. He said IARU Region 2 gave the IFT a copy, in Spanish, of the ITU Handbook of Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio Services, hoping to point up the problems in the new legislation.

"There is plenty to do to correct these legal aberrations," Santoyo concluded, "but I think the process we have seen that while amateurs are highly respected and beloved, we compete for the attention of a regulator and Congress with the big industry players, which in this world of economic interests, makes it hard to keep their attention in taking care of us." Santoyo told ARRL that nothing had changed as of this week.

ARRL Transitioning to New Digital Publishing Platform

American Radio Relay League

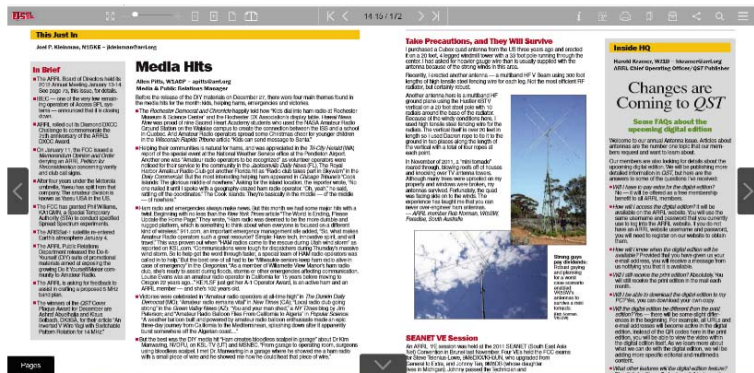
Newington, CT, December 7th, 2016 — ARRL is moving to a new digital publishing platform! The January 2017 digital edition of QST will be the first produced using PageSuite. ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford WB8IMY, said the transition from the current NxtBook platform to PageSuite not only will improve members' reading experience, it will be more convenient.

"PageSuite provides a sleek, modern design that runs on desktop browsers, mobile browsers, and within apps for mobile devices," Ford said. "PageSuite does not require Flash but uses HTML5 instead. This alleviates many security concerns and makes the magazine more broadly compatible."

New QST issues, beginning with the January 2017 edition, will take up less space on mobile devices, speeding up download time. Added features include digital bookmarks to save a page and pick up right where you left off, and a clipping tool to save or share important passages as JPEG files. Video files will be hosted on YouTube in high resolution.

The new application is compatible with Android devices, iOS devices — including iPhones, iPod touches, and iPads — and will be newly available to Kindle Fire! These apps will receive regular, quick updates in order to keep the application running smoothly.

Ford said the link to the digital edition of the monthly journal will remain in the same spot on the QST website, and members will continue to be notified of its release via e-mail.



ARRL has compiled a "how-to" guide to help members navigate PageSuite, which will be available on the QST webpage on the day the January digital issue is announced. The announcement concerning the availability of the January issue of QST in the new desktop/laptop version, the how-to guide, and the new digital QST apps, will be forthcoming.

Members can use the online digital QST feedback form to comment on the new platform when it is available. To ease the transition, NxtBook applications will continue to function on iOS and Android devices until January 1.

Left: A sample of how the digital edition of QST will appear in the PageSuite platform. Image courtesy of © Copyright 2016 the American Radio Relay League

Will A Poor Support Experience 'Gone Viral' Sink Ham Radio Deluxe?

Ron Notarius W3WN

A posting to several Amateur Radio online forums, about an extremely poor customer support experience with the company that now owns the Ham Radio Deluxe software package, has exploded across the Internet, leading many to question whether or not the company will be able to survive the subsequent fallout.

Ham Radio Deluxe is a software package that provides rig control, logging functions, and many other features to supported Amateur Radio transceivers that have a computer interface. It was originally developed, starting in 2003, by Peter Halpin PH1PH/PE1MHO (SK) and Simon Brown HB9DRV/GD4ELI, and it was initially intended to be a simple control program for the then-new ICOM IC-703. Over time, more features and more radios were added to HRD's feature set.

Development of HRD under the "freeware" model by HB9DRV continued for many years. For a variety of reasons, the application and its development were sold to a new company, HRD Software LLC, in November 2011. The owners of HRD Software LLC were Rick Ruhl W4PC, Randy Gawtry K0CBH, and Mike Carpenter WA9PIE.

"Free" versions of HRD, through Version 5.24, remain available on the web at various sites. Support for these versions by HRD LLC are unknown, but there is still a lot of peer-support available. The commercial version of HRD, starting with HRD 6.0 released in February 2012, is currently on Release 6.3.

The start of the existing kerfuffle began when Jim Gierczyk N2SUB, a user of HRD version 6.1, was having various issues. He contacted HRD support but was told that he was "on his own." He then purchased version 6.3, only to learn afterwards that the new version no longer supports Windows XP. N2SUB then purchased a new Windows 10 computer, and successfully installed the new HRD software on it.

A new problem arose when N2SUB installed Microsoft Office 365 on his new computer, which 'broke' the HRD logbook and other functions. (This turns out to be a known incompatibility issue due to older .NET drivers used in HRD). He again requested assistance from HRD Support, and found the assistance lacking. As a result, on September 2nd, 2016, N2SUB wrote a [less than complimentary review of HRD](http://www.eham.net/reviews/review/143372) on the eHam review page.

In December 2016, N2SUB again contacted HRD Support over an issue. He was told by Support that he would first have to upgrade to the latest build of Version 6.22 before they could provide assistance. He did so, only to find that when he started HRD, the application would immediately terminate. He reported this in the Support ticket, and was given this immediate response:

"I'm sorry, but your support has expired and we are unable to provide any further support. We would also like to request that you NOT RENEW your support nor use our software due to the review you placed on eHam back in September. Remember that? <http://www.eham.net/reviews/review/143372> Good luck, and 73 HRD Tech Support"

He immediately called the HRD Support Line, and was informed that he had been "blacklisted" and that the new version would prevent HRD from running on his machine. He then was contacted two days later, and told that HRD was willing to unblock his copy of the software... if he would remove the negative review he had posted on eHam.

The help desk ticket of the incident can be found at <https://archive.org/details/HRDSoftwareINC> and <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6A...ZtaVBizk0/view>

Subsequently, on December 14th, N2SUB started new threads on forums on [eHam.net](http://www.eham.net), [QRZ.COM](http://www.qrz.com) and other places detailing what had happened to him.

As one might expect, reaction to these posts were swift; a virtual firestorm soon erupted. Most of the initial responses were either in disbelief that a commercial company would actually do something like this to a paying customer, or declaring that the poster would not or would never again do business with HRD. But many other contributors to the threads indicated that they too had had similar poor experiences with HRD Support or HRD LLC in general. Many other stories of 'blacklisting' in response to reviews also came to light. (One example is this topic posted by K9IUQ in 2015, <http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic,106480.0.html>). NØIU also reported similar experiences, which can be found in the same thread.)

[Initial reaction from HRD](#) came from co-owner W4PC. He claimed that N2SUB's support expired on November 30th, which is why he received no assistance, and that he could revert to the previous version without issue. This did not explain, though, why N2SUB was instructed to download a version that would not work – or why he was not told at the time (as he claims) that his support had expired. It also did not explain the email response requesting that N2SUB NOT renew his support, or the demand that the negative review must be removed prior to any further support.

On December 16th, it [came to light on Reddit that](#) the "blacklisting" based on negative reviews [has been ongoing for a long time](#). A screenshot of eHam reviews showed almost every negative review coupled with that call shown as "blacklisted"

Several commenters have pointed out that the ability to disable the software for "any" reason was spelled out in the HRD license agreement. This is usually done for reasons involving illegal or malicious use, or for pirated copies. To have it done because of a negative review is (in Amateur Radio circles, at least) virtually unheard of prior to this.

On Page 4 of the PDF of the support ticket (see links above), "Rick" (who is alleged to be W4PC, one of the owners) admits that N2SUB was put on "a blacklist in our code", cited section 7 of the Terms of Service (license agreement), and also threatened to see N2SUB in court if the negative review was not deleted. (At no point did "Rick" indicate what was allegedly "blatantly false" about the September 2nd review, just that he wanted it completely removed)

As the issue attracted more and more attention, at one point the owner of QRZ.COM, Fred Lloyd AA7BQ personally removed the forum discussion thread about the HRD issue, and then posted an explanation as to why he did so. Many forum members responded angrily about this, alleging that HRD had requested that AA7BQ do this to try and silence the issue. Within a short time, the original thread was restored, and as of deadline is still open for comments.

At some point in time, the Twitter feed for HRD was deleted as well.

Finally, on December 17th, [WA9PIE issued apologies](#) on both the eHam and QRZ threads, stating that the situation was "regrettable" and that he was going to make amends with N2SUB. He also stated that it was "not the policy or practice of HRD Software, LLC" to retaliate against negative reviews.

This was followed by [an apology from W4PC](#), withdrawing his threat of a lawsuit, and blaming his "mistake and error of judgement" on low blood sugar, due to his diabetes medication(s).

Reaction to both apologies were harsh, especially since it had come to light that this was not an isolated incident, but had been part of an ongoing pattern of support issues. WA9PIE made multiple additional posts to both forums to try and again apologize, and to answer some questions. Many others remain unanswered.

WA9PIE has also said that he would be discussing with his partners the future role(s) that W4PC would have with the company in the future, in light of these incidents.

On December 19th, [a story about the incident](#) "broke" on the UK website "The Register® – Biting The Hand That Feeds IT". Several details of the story do not appear to be strictly correct, this still sparked comments from outside the relatively small world of the Amateur Radio forums. A [follow-up story](#) posted there on December 21st also revealed more details about the blacklist itself.

The black list itself actually works very simply. The newer versions of HRD have a "phone home" mode (via telnet) on startup; the software contacts a license server owned by HRD and checks to see if the call sign of the user is in a database of users. If the database lists that call with a status code of "Blacklisted", the HRD application immediately terminates.

Continued on page 12

Poor HRD Support Experience continued from Page 11

It also came to light that a negative review might not be the only reason that a call was Blacklisted.

- + Karel Cornelis ON7TA reported that he discovered he was Blacklisted because someone at HRD believed he was a member of a Yahoo group critical of the company, and he was only removed from it by W4PC after he had demonstrated to their satisfaction that he was not.
- + Guy Simmons G4DWV / 4X1LT asked HRD, while still within the 30 day trial license period, if he could be given a discount on the license cost, as he has been recovering from multiple medical issues the last few years. He was offered a 15% discount. "A day or so later my trial license did not work." According to the support ticket, [posted on his web site](#), he was accused by Support of being "not exactly truthful" about his medical condition, and was told that this "upsets all of us." Support accused him of providing misleading or false information, and explicitly requested that he "didn't bother" to purchase the software license. Guy states that only after he contacted the owners regarding this ticket was his 15% discount re-instated.

WA9PIE has stated since this came to light that all "Blacklisted" calls have been removed from their license server. (It is not known if other status codes, such as "Inactive" or "Deleted", were affected by this action, nor is it known if the company would ever reinstate this status code in the future). He has also apologized, again, saying that while he is an owner and investor in HRD LLC Inc. (and is listed as their President), he did not have a hand in the day-to-day operations of the company, and was unaware of many of the actions that have now come to light.

A [new issue was raised](#) on December 25th by an anonymous ham calling himself "CHRISDX". He has alleged that while using the trial copy of the software, he discovered that his call had been changed to "TH1EF". HRD Support allegedly told him that he [must have used a trial copy in the past](#), but did not admit to changing his call.

Where do things stand today? As of deadline:

- + More hams have come forward with stories of support issues that did not resolve well.
- + Other hams have indicated that they will not purchase HRD or not renew their license or support contract, because of the issues that have come to light. Current users of HRD have indicated that the current release still "phones home" to the license server, but at least as of the moment, no one has reported being blocked based on their call (although there have been other issues with that server or one like it).
- + Many commenters are urging HRD Supporters to drop the application and switch to other packages, including LOG4OM, DXLab, N1MM+, N3FJP, and others.
- + VK3AMA, developer of the application JTAAlert, has announced that he will no longer provide support for HRD Version 6 Logging within the app, as of JTAAlert 2.9.0, and will not support HRD v6 going forward. (See sidebar right)
- + And the open forum discussions on eHam, QRZ, the Island of Misfit Hams and other sites continue to churn content.

On December 30th, a press release from HRD Software LLC was posted on their forums by WA9PIE announcing that W4PC was leaving the company. (See below). In light of the revelations regarding W4PC's customer service interactions, this was not entirely unexpected. Whether this will quell the controversy, or if other significant changes are forthcoming, remains unknown.

More than a few have wondered if HRD LLC can survive the firestorm that erupted since this news broke. The lack of news remains bleak. There is rampant speculation that so many users are allegedly abandoning the package that it will not remain on the market for long. Others are wondering if a change in the ownership arrangements will take place and/or become necessary. Yet others are clamoring for another company or group of individuals to purchase the HRD software application, alleging that the current ownership/management have become to "tainted" to keep the company viable. And there are those demanding that the posters cease, and give WA9PIE "more time" to implement his changes to turn things around, that the company will survive.

The departure of W4PC is a start. Where things will end remain to be seen.

HRD Software, LLC Announces Departure of Co-Founder Rick Ruhl W4PC To Pursue Other Interests

HRD Software, LLC [Press Release](#)

Tampa, FL; Dallas, TX; St. Paul, MN — December 31st, 2016 — HRD Software, LLC., producer of Ham Radio Deluxe, the world's leading software application suite for ham radio operators, announces the departure of co-founder, Rick Ruhl (W4PC) to pursue other interests. This change becomes effective as of December 31st, 2016.

"After twenty years, I'm retiring from the ham radio market," stated Ruhl.

Co-founder, Michael Carper (WA9PIE) continued, "Ham Radio Deluxe software would have been abandoned in 2011 without Rick's partnership. Over the past five years, we have introduced many new features and resolved many long-standing defects in the software. Rick's day-to-day leadership in running the business has contributed to the vitality and functionality of Ham Radio Deluxe."

Co-founders Carper and Randy Gawtry (K0CBH) expect that there will be a transition period that will begin in early 2017.

"On behalf of the entire company, I would like to thank Rick for his contributions over the past five years and wish him well in his future endeavors," concluded Gawtry.

HRD Software, LLC expects to release a revised End User License Agreement shortly to modernize and renew our commitment to our customers

— Mike Carper WA9PIE

<http://forums.hrdsoftwarellc.com/forum/hrd-6-x-peer-support-forums/hrd-announcements/40696-important-news-regarding-hrd-software-llc>

"To all JTAAlert / HRD V6 users. I will no longer be providing support for HRD V6 logging within JTAAlert. This comes into effect with the next public release of JTAAlert (2.9.0). Affected HRD users can continue to use the current version of JTAAlert (2.8.7) for as long as they want. I will not be able to provide any support for that version, however, if a future HRD release breaks the JTAAlert/HRD integration. The free V5 of HRD will continue to be supported. Moving forward, all future JTAAlert versions will not support HRD V6 logging. I will not be participating in any public or private discussions regarding the reasons for this decision". I sincerely apologise to the affected HRD users."

Laurie Cowcher
VK3AMA

FCC Amateur Radio License Counts Through the End of 2016

| License Class | 08/21/2010 | 10/01/2015 | 12/29/2016 | 12/29/2016 PA Only |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Novice | 16,134 | 12,605 | 10,012 | 451 |
| Technician | 341,643 | 356,487 | 371,485 | 10,579 |
| General | 154,598 | 168,901 | 172,775 | 5,869 |
| Advanced | 59,867 | 52,657 | 45,073 | 1,744 |
| Extra | 121,879 | 135,058 | 143,320 | 4,232 |
| Total | 694,121 | 725,708 | 742,665 | 22,875 |

Information compiled by Jim Miccolis N2EY and from <http://www.arrl.org/fcc-license-counts>.

The numbers shown are the current (as of the indicated date) unexpired FCC Amateur Radio licenses held by individuals. Expired licenses still in the 2 year 'grace period' are not included.

"Fun Facts"

The US Virgin Islands has only 228 total licensed Amateurs.

North Dakota has 1555.

California has 104,859 — almost 5 times as many as Pennsylvania.

BY-70 FM Transponder CubeSat Now In Orbit

AMSAT—UK <https://amsat-uk.org/2016/12/27/by70-1-fm-transponder-satellite/>

Blandford, Dorset, UK December 28th, 2016 — A CZ-2D rocket carrying the amateur radio FM transponder satellite BY70-1 was launched on Wednesday, December 28th at 03:23 UT.

The launch from the Taiyuan Space Launch Center was planned for December 26th, but postponed due to adverse weather. It had been planned it would go into a 530 km circular Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO) but instead the orbit appears to be 524 x 212 km which will give an orbital lifetime of just one or two months.

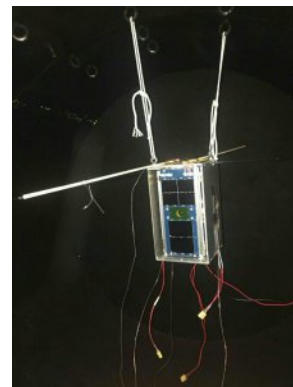
BY70-1 is a 2U CubeSat project for school education and Amateur Radio. It features 3-axis stabilization and deployable solar panels. In addition to the FM transponder BY70-1 has a camera and it is planned to download images and telemetry via a 9600 bps BPSK downlink.

The IARU amateur satellite frequency coordination pages list these frequencies:

- + 145.920 MHz uplink
- + 436.200 MHz downlink
- + A 67 Hz CTCSS (PL Tone) is required.

Paul Stoetzer N8HM reports working Wyatt Dirks ACØRA through the FM transponder during the 1709 UT pass on December 28th. Paul says "Uplink requires precise frequency adjustment and there's a delay on the downlink, but the signal is strong". A recording of the transponder can be heard at <https://soundcloud.com/paul-stoetzer/by70-1-1706z-28-dec-2016>

- + BY70-1 has been added to the satellite pass predictor at <http://amsat.org.ar/pass.htm>
- + GNU Radio decoder for camera images from BY70-1 satellite at <http://desteve.net/2016/12/looking-at-by70-1-image-downlink/>
- + BY70-1 links http://www.amsatuk.me.uk/iaru/finished_detail.php?serialnum=531 and <https://twitter.com/cnspacelflight/status/802863365013942272>
- + Keplerian Two Line Elements (TLEs) 'Keps' for new satellites launched in past 30 days. BY70-1 is believed to be object 41909, 2016-083C <http://celestrak.com/NORAD/elements/tle-new.txt>



BY70-1 CubeSat
Photo courtesy of
AMSAT-UK

Canada's telecommunications regulator Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) — formerly Industry Canada (IC) — has issued a revised version of the Radiocommunication Information Circular 3 (RIC-3), "Information on the Amateur Radio Service," replacing the previous 2005 version. According to ISED, RICs are issued for the guidance of those engaged in radiocommunications in Canada, and the information they contain is subject to change without notice.

RAC said the new document contains several editorial changes, including the change from IC to ISED and clarifications regarding operating privileges granted to Basic licensees. "Over recent years, there have been questions about which qualification [license] is required by Canadian radio amateurs to modify a commercial transceiver to operate on amateur bands," RAC Regulatory Affairs Officer Richard Ferch VE3IAY/VE3KI recounted. Advanced licensees may modify transceivers, because they are allowed to design and build transmitters. Ferch pointed out that the new RIC-3 makes it clear that Basic licensee privileges include "re-programming of radio equipment to operate in the amateur bands, if this can be done by a computer program," but not "physical modifications to the circuitry."



RAC had urged the relaxation of restrictions limiting remote control of Amateur Radio stations to Advanced licensees, in light of transceiver design changes that have simplified such operation. "We believe that those with Basic [licenses] should have this privilege, but ISED has not yet agreed," Ferch said. "Dealing with regulations and their interpretation is an ongoing activity, where several rounds of discussion are often required to achieve results."

RAC said the document also drops the outdated requirement for visiting American radio operators to demonstrate Morse proficiency to be allowed to operate HF phone in Canada. World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 concurred that Morse no longer needed to be an Amateur Radio licensing requirement, and the US dropped the Morse requirement in 2007.

RAC said the major change relates to reciprocal operating privileges, and in particular those provided through a European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) permit. Canada is a signatory to the [CEPT T/R 61-01](#) agreement, under which Canadian amateurs holding a CEPT permit issued in Canada may operate in European countries during temporary visits. The CEPT agreement no longer required a Morse qualification, and after negotiations between ISED and CEPT, the rules for Canadian participation have been updated to follow suit. There will no longer be two classes of CEPT permits according to the applicant's Morse code qualification. In addition, CEPT has determined that only Advanced Canadian licensees will be eligible for reciprocal operating privileges under CEPT T/R 61-01.

Canada is also a party to the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP), which provides reciprocal operating privileges to radio amateurs in signatory countries in ITU Region 2. At the October IARU Region 2 General Assembly in Chile, RAC and other IARU member societies agreed to encourage their governments to update this agreement. RAC said it has learned that the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) will do so, possibly as soon as next summer.

— ARRL, RAC

Special Call Sign Prefixes Available to Celebrate Canada's Sesquicentennial

American Radio Relay League & Radio Amateurs of Canada

Newington, CT, December 29th — Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has secured permission for all Canadian radio amateurs to use special call sign prefixes to celebrate the [150th anniversary](#) of Canada's Confederation during 2017.

Starting on January 1st, radio amateurs and clubs with **VA**-prefix call signs may use **CF** instead, and those with **VE**-prefix call signs may use **CG** instead. Amateurs and clubs with **VO**-prefix call signs may substitute **CH** instead, while those holding **VY**-prefix call signs may substitute **CI**.

Use of the special prefixes is optional, and Canadian radio amateurs may choose if and when to use the special prefix at any time during the year.

VY1AAA, the Yukon Canam Contest Club, will mark the sesquicentennial with special call sign **XK15ØYUKON** from January 1 until March 1. The rest of 2017, **VY1AAA** will operate using either **CI1AAA** or **VY1AAA**.



On December 21st, Amateur Radio operators in Germany gained access to the band 5.351.5 to 5.366.5 MHz with 15 W EIRP, and a maximum bandwidth of 2.7 kHz. Access applies to Class A licensees. Amateur Radio is secondary on 60 meters in all countries where it is available to Amateur Radio.

The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) called users' attention to the IARU Region 1 band plan for 60 meters, which recommends CW and digital modes, maximum bandwidth of 200 Hz, from 5.351.5 to 5.354.0 MHz; all modes, maximum bandwidth of 2.7 kHz (use USB for SSB), from 5.354.0 to 5.366.0 MHz, and all modes, maximum bandwidth of 20 Hz "with the least power," from 5.366.0 to 5.366.5 MHz.

"Because a lot of radio amateurs must share this narrow 15 kHz band, everyone should keep transmissions short and avoid lengthy ragchews," the DARC advised in announcing access to the new allocation.

Other countries are expected to grant access to the new, 15 kHz 60-meter band when the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015, which made the allocation available to Amateur Radio, go into effect on January 1st, but the US will not be among them. The FCC has yet to allow Amateur Radio access to 60 meters beyond the five discrete channels already available

— ARRL, DARC

On December 28th, Sean Nolan EI7CD, IRTS/ComReg Liason, announced on behalf of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) that Irish radio amateurs can use the WRC-15 band of 5.3515 to 5.3665 MHz effective immediately. Power limit is 15 Watts EIRP, and no special application is required.

Details can be downloaded from the [Comreg website](#). — EI7GL [Blog](#)

The IARU Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System [newsletter](#) reports that one of China's HF Over-the-Horizon radars (OTH-R) has been transmitting on 6.999 MHz, impinging on the very low end of the 40-meter band.

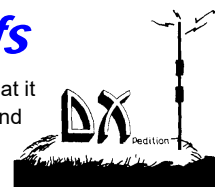
As the newsletter reported: "A jumping Chinese OTH radar covered the CW DX-edge of our exclusive 7 MHz band on November 17 at about 1500 UTC and later (long lasting)." The signal was 67 sweeps per second with a 10 kHz bandwidth.

Elsewhere on 40 meters, military ALE transmissions have been heard from Kyrgyzstan on 7050.0 kHz. IARUMS also reports that the Australian Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) has been heard on 10.131 MHz in the amateur 30-meter band; Amateur Radio is secondary on 30 meters.

Radio Eritrea appeared in November on 7180 kHz together with white noise from Ethiopia. The frequencies 7146.5, 7175, and 7185 kHz were reported to be still in use as well.

Reports of Amateur Radio band intruders may be [logged](#) on the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System logger.

DX News Briefs



The [Bouvet Island 3YØZ DXpedition Team](#) reports that it has located a "suitable landing zone" on the island, and also "the best operating location in the area." The location is on the Slakhallet Glacier on Bouvet's northeastern quadrant, about 600 feet above sea level. The team also reports that updates and revisions to their "longstanding (2007) landing permit" have been approved by the Norsk Polar Institute. The team is still on target for an "early 2018" operating date. Information on their web site shows that they are approximately 2/3 of the way to their goal of \$610,000 to fund the trip. More information available at <http://www.bouvetdx.org/> — 3YØZ Bouvet Island DXpedition Team

DF9TM, DJ6SI & DL2SWW are currently QRV as **5R8UJ**, **5R8GC** & **5R8UR** from Nosy Be AF-057 through 12 January. QRV on HF. QSL via their home calls — DX World

D44TBT is QRV through 12 January from Sal Island. QSL via SM5EPO — SM5EPO, DX World

OAØMP is expected to "soon" be QRV from the [Machu Picchu](#) Antarctic Base, King George Island (Isla Rey Jorge), South Shetland Islands AN-010 QSL via OA4O — DX World

6EØC will be QRV 1 January - 30 April to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Constitution. They will be QRV on "all bands, all modes." QSL via XE1EE — XE1RCQ

Members of the Qatar ARS will be QRV as **A7ØX** from Al-Salfiyah AS-088 1—7 January, HF, CW SSB & Digital modes. QSL via MØXO — MDXC

E51AMF will be QRV from Manihiki, OC-015 North Cooks, 11 January thru 6 February, 160—80 SSB & RTTY. No CW. 160 also is possible. Priority will be given to Europe and for All Time New One(s) (ATNO) QSOs. More information available at <https://e51amf.amateurfoundation.org/> QSL via K7ADD. — Amateur Foundation

DX world reports that he will then be QRV from Rarotonga OC-013 South Cooks as **E51ADD**, 5—9 January and 8—18 February — DX World

A group of German amateurs will be QRV as **XX3D** from AS-075 Macau 13—26 February, 80—10, CW SSB & RTTY. More information at <http://xx9d.mydx.de/> QSL via DL4SVA — MDXC

9N1AA will be QRV as **9N1MD** 1—30 April for the [Mediterraneo DX Club's](#) 20th Anniversary. QSL via IZ1BVZ — MDXC

QSL Routes

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4O1ØA via YU1YV — KU9C | R23RRC via R7AL — W3AWU |
| 4O3A via KU9C — KU9C | RK10/p via RN1ON — W4FOA |
| 4O9ØA via YU1YV — KU9C | T3ØJY via JA1JQY — JA1HGY |
| 5H3DX via NK8O — JA1HGY | T3ØKJ via JA1KJW — N6TA |
| 5WØJHQ via JAØJHQ — JA1HGY | T3ØMA via JA3MCA — JA1HGY |
| 5W7X via JF1OCQ — JA1HGY | TLØA via F4WBN — JA1HGY |
| 6Y4V via AA4V — JA1HGY | UE23RRC via R7AL — W3AWU |
| B9ØIARU via BA4EG — K7ACZ | V47T via W2RQ — JA1HGY |
| D66D via LK6DJ — LU2DKN | V63CO via JA8COE — W3AWU |
| HBØ/DL6YL via DL5YM — JA1HGY | V63FA via JA1SVP — JA1HGY |
| AD8J/HR9 via AD8J — JA1HGY | V63YY via JA1VND — JA1HGY |
| KG4LA via KQ4LA — JA1HGY | VP2ESM via OH1VR — JA1HGY |
| OJØJR via OH3JR — JA1HGY | XZ1A via JH1AJT — JA1HGY |
| PJ2AF via K4OGT — W4QNW | ZZ2Ø16RIO via PP5NY — JA1HGY |

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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Ofcom Declines To Act in 'Nightmare Neighbor Next Door' Ham Radio Episode

Newington, CT, December 5th, 2016 — UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has declined to act on formal complaints about an October 27th episode of the Channel 5 television program *Nightmare Neighbor Next Door*. That episode focused on 75 year old Armando Martins MØPAM of Kent, whose neighbors made unsubstantiated claims that RF radiating from his 30 foot vertical antenna was detrimental to their health.



The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) weighed in following the airing of the show. Radio amateurs across the UK also complained that the program episode was replete with false claims, and pointed out that OfCom had never found any problems with Martins station. A Radio Amateur for more than 60 years, Martins was first licensed as CR6IL in Portuguese West Africa (now Angola).

Complaints contended that the show was "materially misleading, and thus a breach of the [Ofcom Broadcast Code](#).

KE7FD Continued from Page 3

22nd Annual hamfest.

Speaking of **WASHFest**, thanks again to Carol, WASH members, the vendors and the attendees who make **WASHFest** a great success every year. Not to be outdone by our Dayton buddies, **WASHFest** too will be held at a new location for the first time this year: South Park! Check this newsletter for more information. Following **WASHFest** in March will be our annual Pizza Night on March 2nd.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, January 5th!

— 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, December 5th, 2016 — The FCC has affirmed a \$23,000 penalty against Daniel Delise of Astoria, New York, for operating without an Amateur Radio license on 147.96 MHz and for transmitting a false officer-in-distress call on a New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio channel. The FCC's December 5 **Forfeiture Order** follows its August 31st **Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)**, which detailed a history of complaints and alleged illegal radio operation by Delise dating to 2012.

"The penalty represents the full amount proposed in the *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture*, and is based on the full base forfeiture amount as well as an upward adjustment reflecting Mr. Delise's decision to continue his misconduct after being warned that his actions violated the Communications Act (Act) and the Commission's rules," the FCC *Forfeiture Order* said. The FCC said Delise's response to the NAL offered "no reason to cancel, withdraw, or reduce the proposed penalty."

Last summer, ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco N2YBB, credited the intervention of New York Rep Peter King with getting the case "off the back burner and up to the front of the line." Lisenco and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD, met with the Republican congressman in January to discuss ongoing interference issues in the Greater New York City/Long Island area. King subsequently wrote FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to urge "timely and visible enforcement."

Lisenco also praised the direct involvement of FCC Enforcement Bureau Region 1 Director David C. Dombrowski "and his willingness to work with us and to use information we provided as potential leads," as well as "a system of grass-roots reporting that depicted the current pattern of intentional interference with legitimate amateur communications on local repeaters," coordinated by Richie Cetron, K2KNB, an ARRL Official Observer and Assistant Hudson Division Director. Lisenco said FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith had been "a great help in keeping us informed and in the loop."

The September 15th response to the NAL did not deny that Delise violated the Communications Act and FCC rules but argued that the FCC should reduce or cancel the fine because he is currently incarcerated and has no income or assets of any kind. The FCC turned away that argument.

"We decline to reduce or cancel the forfeiture on this basis," the FCC said in the *Forfeiture Order*. The FCC said Delise did not provide any documentation to substantiate his claim of inability to pay.

Last April the FCC Enforcement Bureau issued a **Notice of Unlicensed Operation**, after determining that Delise was transmitting on 147.96 MHz, a repeater input. Not long after, the NYPD informed an FCC field agent that police had taken Delise into custody for "sending out false radio transmissions" over the NYPD radio system and for possessing radios capable of operating on NYPD frequencies, in violation of state law.

The FCC has given Delise 30 days to pay the fine. If he fails to do so, the case "may be referred to the US Department of Justice for enforcement of the forfeiture," the FCC said in its *Forfeiture Order*. He could have been fined more than \$140,000, under the provisions of the Communications Act. Delise now is serving prison time resulting from the false police call and guilty pleas to other charges.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has announced that he will step down in January, when President Barack Obama's term ends. An Obama appointee, Wheeler has headed the Commission for 3 years.

Wheeler was a staunch proponent of the FCC's net neutrality policy, which has been opposed by Republicans as government overreach.

When Wheeler departs on January 20th, the FCC will be left with two Republicans — Ajit Pai and Michael O'Rielly — and one Democrat — Mignon Clyburn, whose term ends in mid-2017. Democratic commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel failed to gain confirmation for another term before Congress adjourned and is expected to depart by year's end. The FCC can have up to five commissioners, which are appointed by the president, the political balance favoring the party holding the White House.

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K4AC Still Challenging September Disqualification in 2016 ARRL Southeastern Division Director Election

Outgoing ARRL Southeastern Division Director Donald Rehman Sr. K4AC is still challenging the decision of the ARRL Ethics & Elections (E&E) Committee that disqualified him as a candidate for re-election to his position last September, days before the nominating period was closed.

The entire timeline of events, according to Mr. Rehman, can be found at <http://arrlse.org/?p=196>. The key points appear to be:

Mr. Rehman had [previously alleged](#), in 2013, that his sole opponent, then-ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt W4OZK, had his 2013 election website hosted by an "amateur radio retailer" and considered this "a breach of ethics for a Director by accepting a donation from a vendor. The unnamed vendor 'is not being identified as all indications are that they are an innocent third party that was providing the hosting as a favor to Sarratt, not in an attempt to buy favor or influence. The ethics violation is wholly Sarratt's.'" The 2013 election was won by Mr. Rehman over Mr. Sarratt in a close vote, 961 to 949, which was alleged to be "[one of the poorest voter turnouts](#)" in recent League history."

Mr. Rehman, who ran as a "reformer", made many motions during his time in office to make ARRL Board meetings more "open" (See http://arrlse.org/?te_announcements=k4ac-makes-motion-to-include-vice-directors-in-all-meetings-of-the-board, http://arrlse.org/?te_announcements=k4ac-makes-a-motion-for-board-transparency), to reform the E&E committee (http://arrlse.org/?te_announcements=k4ac-makes-motion-to-reform-the-ethics-elections-committee) and to address what he perceived as a "lack of communications with Members." (http://arrlse.org/?te_announcements=240-2), amongst many other "reform" actions.

Also during Mr. Rehman's term, the then Vice-Director of the SE Division, Mike Lee AA6ML, met in July 2016 with the three Directors on the E&E Committee [to discuss a new project](#) he was undertaking with ICOM. He initially received approval from the E&E Committee for the project, and assurance at the time that there were no ethical conflicts. However, in August, Mr. Lee [received a "long list" of questions](#) regarding the project and his relationship with ICOM. Mr. Lee "immediately" answered all questions at the time. E&E [informed him several days later](#) that they had determined that "his collaboration with ICOM did not rise to the level of disqualifying him" but added new conditions. Lee then resigned as the SE Division Vice Director, effective immediately.

Mr. Rehman [again raised questions](#) about Mr. Sarratt's campaign with regards to the host of his 2016 web site. In addition, there appear to have been concerns raised by the Orlando Hamcation & Orlando (FL) ARC regarding photos used without proper permissions and that appeared to imply support from the organizations and some members of them that were not the case.

In early September, Mr. Rehman submitted his "300 Word Candidate Statement" that is normally included with the ballots sent out by ARRL. The day after submitting it, [E&E instructed him](#) to rewrite the statement to remove several lines that he objected to. The objections concerned a comment that the election was a "referendum", which it was not, and over comments about the Board members that they felt were "disrespectful" and not in compliance with "Section 2.1 of the Director's Workbook". Mr. Rehman alleges that he revised his statement to be in compliance with this request.

Following this, the E&E Committee [requested that Mr. Rehman remove](#) what they considered "disturbing statements" from his QRZ.COM® web page. Mr. Rehman again complied with the request.

Less than 2 weeks later, Mr. Rehman [was notified by the E&E Committee](#) that he had been disqualified as a candidate, due to "two separate complaints with respect to unethical actions taken by you... and as well a series of actions taken by you with respect to your opponent's election campaign." A [detailed report](#) was made to the ARRL Board several days later.

The E&E Committee also investigated one of the complaints against Mr. Sarratt (regarding his web site), but determined that [there was no ethical violation](#) on his part. In part, the vendor in question is not an ARRL advertiser and had not been for "at least 10 years", thus there was no possible conflict of interest.

Mr. Rehman requested that the [full ARRL Board vote](#) on the E&E decision to disqualify him. ARRL President Richard Roderick K5UR called for a vote via email on September 23rd. [Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM abstained on the first question asked via email, and did not vote on the remaining ones.] Mr. Rehman then alleged that [this email process](#) was in violation of Connecticut laws on proxy voting by directors.

Subsequently, a "[Special Meeting](#)" of the ARRL Board was held on October 5th by teleconference. The purpose of the special meeting was to ratify the email vote of the Directors. The resolution to adopt the resolution (to ratify the email vote) passed 11 to 4. [Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM was amongst the Directors voting against the resolution].

On October 6th, Greg Sarratt W4OZK, as the only eligible candidate on the ballot, [was declared elected](#) as ARRL Southeastern Division Director, to take office as of Noon Eastern Time on January 1st.

Mr. Sarratt and his supporters have not accepted this decision. Mr. Sarratt has openly wondered on his web page 'So how did Sarratt come to have "been declared elected" six weeks before the ballots are due at ARRL HQ???' . Complaints from his supporters have generated some threads on web forums including eHam, QRZ.COM, Facebook, and others.

Mr. Sarratt has spoken with a law firm, Stanger & Associates, with a possible eye towards legal action. A "GoFundMe" page was set up to raise funds to cover legal expenses, with the goal of seeking a court order to require that the election be held. (The GoFundMe page, titled "Justice for League Members" at <https://www.gofundme.com/arrlse>, is now closed for further contributions). It is uncertain as of deadline if any further actions will be taken at this point in time.

Editor's Note:

Why is this important to members of **WASH**? Or, for that matter, to anyone reading this who is not an ARRL Member in the Southeastern Division?

The individual members Board of the ARRL, that is our Division Directors, are supposed to be our representatives to the organization as a whole. (Remember, the ARRL is not just the Board, not just the volunteers for various offices and positions throughout the Field Organization, not just the paid staff in Newington, but ALL of its members)

It is incumbent on ALL ARRL Members to ensure that elections for the members of the Board are held to the highest standards. Actions that take place behind closed doors, that are never discussed, are at best... troublesome. There is an implication, whether true or not, of an "elite" that manipulates the elections for their own benefits, even if that's nothing more than a stroke to one's ego.

Speaking for myself only, I find the allegations and implications... disturbing. More so that so little of this little bit of drama was widely known until fairly recently. This is not to say that I agree with Mr. Rehman's allegations, nor that I agree wholeheartedly with the actions of the Ethics and Elections board. For one thing, as despite the seriousness of these allegations, I do not have all of the information available... and only one side of the story is primarily presented here.

In any event, once Mr. Sarratt takes office, I suspect that the issue will be a moot point. Whether or not Mr. Rehman will run for office again in three years, and whether or not any of these issues surface again, remains to be seen.

Regardless, an event like this should not happen again. If issues of ethics are raised, potentially disqualifying a candidate, they should not be raised so late in the process that only a single candidate would remain, as it gives the appearance of impropriety – that is, the appearance that only the favored candidate(s) are permitted, those that are not wanted are conveniently excised. While I do not believe that is what happened, there is the appearance (intended or not) that this is exactly what happened.

I feel that candidates SHOULD be free to explain, within their 300 words or on their personal web sites or social media pages,

Happy New Year, Western Pennsylvania!

Falls Creek, PA, January 1st, 2017 -- Here's hoping this holiday season has been a time of joy for you, your friends and families too. The start of a new year is a traditional time to look back at the past and look forward to the future. To start off with a look back, I want to thank our outgoing Section Manager Tim Duffy K3LR for his excellent leadership of the Western Pennsylvania section.

During the time he was WPA Section Manager, Tim established a clear sense of direction and built solid momentum for moving forward. It was a privilege to work with him as Affiliated Club Coordinator, and I learned a lot about our many fine clubs, their members and their leaders. For me, it was a terrific opportunity to serve our favorite hobby, and help other amateurs to increase their enjoyment and better serve the public.

These past few weeks, Tim and I have been working together to enable a smooth transition of leadership, and I appreciate being given this opportunity to serve at a higher level. I look forward to helping our section increase and continue its many worthwhile activities and successes.

I speak for all the Western Pennsylvania Section Staff, when I say we are here to help you. We're your first point of contact for assistance with ARRL programs and activities, and can answer your questions—from emergency communications to contesting, awards, VE exams, licensing classes, technology, and much more! Our WPA Staff is at your service!

Over the next few weeks, announcements will be made, requesting applications for vacant staff positions. Applications will be reviewed and applicants will be interviewed to find the best qualified, enthusiastic volunteers who are ready, willing and able to serve you.

My door is always open. I invite every radio amateur in the Western Pennsylvania Section to contact me directly any time with your questions, problems and concerns. The members of the WPA leadership team have plenty of expertise, and we will do our best to help you.

I'm Joe Shupienis W3BC, and I am your Section Manager... How may I help YOU?

Visit our new WPA Website: <http://wpa-arrl.org> Join our Facebook Group: <http://fb.com/Groups/WPAARRL>



The Death of the Elmer & the Rise of the Expert

Robert Powell VK4FFAB courtesy of eHam.net

Of late I have found that my zeal for sharing what I have been getting up to in radio has been at an all time low. Its not that I am not excited about what I am doing, I am having a wonderful time doing radio, it's that there seems to be little point sharing on social media or forums. I am not alone in this either, with many people that I speak with similarly disillusioned and are dropping out entirely.

And why are we dropping out? Simply, there are too many Experts and not enough Elmers. What's the difference you may ask? Well, the point of the Elmer is to encourage you to continue, to go further and to keep trying. While the expert is all about stroking his own ego so we all know who has the biggest.

The prime example of this attitude is Homebrew. Someone will post a rather cool project they put their heart and soul into building and after 1000 views the post might garner 4 or 5 comments and typically the comments are not very relevant to the project.

But, if someone asks "What Resistor Should I Use" you will have Mom, Dad, The Kids, Aunties, Uncles, Second Cousins and a few Twice Removed's banging on for 10 pages whether to use 1/4w 1/8w 5% 10% etc, stroking each others egos along with plenty of, "back in my day when I worked for the military industrial complex..."

Every expert under the sun and anyone with an opinion crawls out from under their proverbial rocks to show just how expert they are, and tell us how expert they used to be. And this is attitude is typical of just about every topic group there is, people who share their achievements and accomplishments, their posts will gain no traction while the controversial and utterly stupid posts will go viral.

Have we really come so far in radio that the best we have to offer is argument about trivialities? If not, how about more comments like "Thanks for sharing." "Keep at it." "Atta boy." And perhaps then, people will start sharing again because there are more Elmer's and fewer experts.



Vlad 6W/A4WHX was active in early December from AF-078 Carabane Island, Senegal. On December 18th, he was detained by military personnel, and removed by speed boat from the island. He was released the following morning by the second-in-command on the island (shown right in the photo) after they determined that his operations were doing "no harm."

He was later emailed by the officer (translated to English):

Good evening Vladimir! You are fine. It is with great pleasure that I write this message to you while hoping that it will find you in good health and in peace. When to me all goes well. During your stay with us you showed cold blood and good comrade and I admire you very much for that. Good luck and good luck. See you soon!!!! Gallo Diallo.



K4AC continued from Page 17

why they feel that they are the better or best candidate for the position. Comments calling the incumbents "elitist" or questioning their "openness" or lack thereof are certainly inflammatory, and may well be unpleasant, but they do not (IMHO) necessarily rise to the level of being "disrespectful."

I feel that an independent review of the entire process is warranted, with recommendations to the E&E Committee as well as the Board as a whole to avoid this situation – the appearance of impropriety, that is, favoritism – in the future.

17th Annual WASH Two Meter Simplex Contest

This January will mark the Seventeenth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting! Everyone who participated in it the last sixteen years had a blast, & we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

Rules were been revised before the 2013 event, following feedback from participants, and we have a new address for mailing your logs from years past — please make certain that you use this year's address!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 14th, 2017 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 15th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Power Limit: Maximum 100 watts output.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scoring: Each Contact:

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

Multipliers:

Locations:

Number of different ZIP Codes

Power:

X **3** Stations running 10 Watts or Less
X **2** Stations running 10—30 Watts
X **1** Stations running over 30 Watts

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

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

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

Send the logs to: **** Correct Address for 2017 ****

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

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 1st, 2017

Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to WASHFest 2017 on February 26th

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

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

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

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

(*) The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 MHz, may be used. However, many stations use 52 for casual conversation or as a calling frequency. If the frequency is in use or becomes used by non-participants, please permit them to use the frequency unimpeded. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.



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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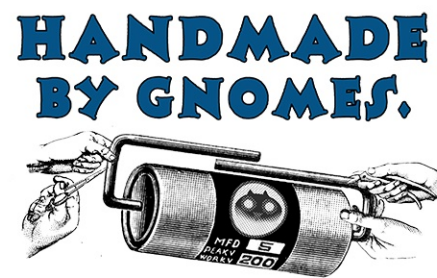


Send an email to bernie@dailydx.com or go to www.dailydx.com

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



Arhhh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



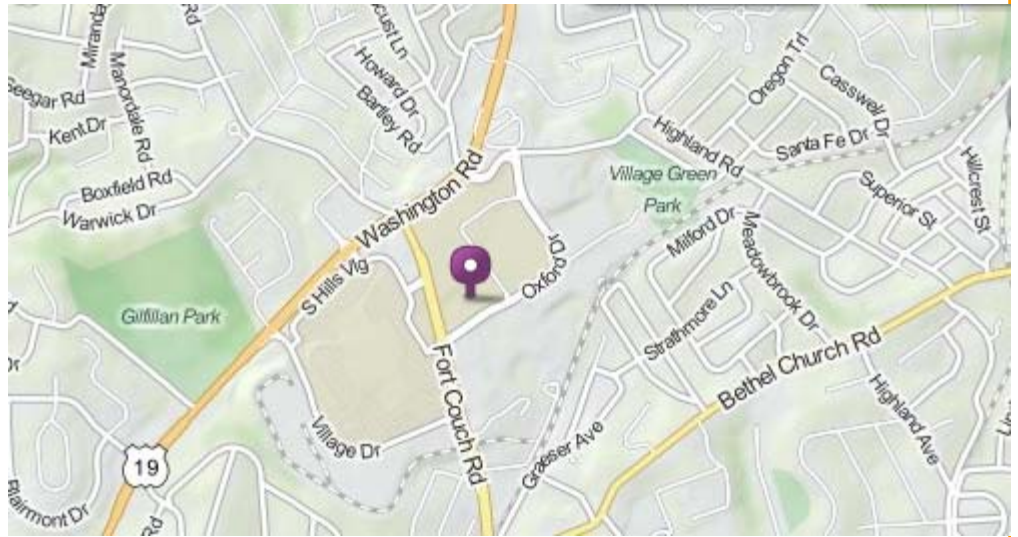
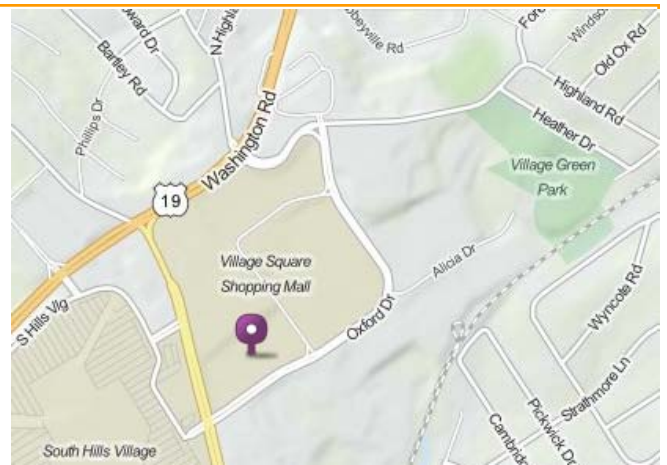
2016 WASH Meeting

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



N3SH / WA3SH
NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org

