



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 05
MAY 2017

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 05

MAY 2017

Next Monthly Meeting: **Thursday, May 4th, 2017**

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, May 4th 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.

Our guest speakers will be Larry Comden K3VX and Bill Hill W3WH, talking about Inverted "L" and other antennas. See you there!

Cover Photo: Rick KB3IAC cranking the WASH Tower Trailer into it's upright position, at the SET exercise at Heritage Ridge on April 29th. More pictures & story staring on Page 7

Photo courtesy of t& © Copyright 2017 Bob Timmons AB3ED

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 2018 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Jim Sanford WB4GCS
Field Day 2017 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every

Monday Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly **"The Mariner™"**) is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN

3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546

e-mail: **newsletter at n3sh dot org or w3wn at arrl dot net**

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

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

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test July 20th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday**, July 20th, 2017, 7:00 PM, at the **WPXI Community Room**, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

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

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

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: [w3wn@n3sh dot org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.dot.org)

Please bring the following to your test session:

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

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

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

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

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

Future test dates: October 19th, 2017

Glen's Musings



In the Spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast; In the Spring the wanton lapwing gets himself another crest;

In the Spring a livelier iris changes on the burnish'd dove; In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of propagation above;

(With Apologies to Alfred, Lord Tennyson)

The four seasons of Ham Radio: Spring (antenna repair, Hamvention, QRP), Summer (DX, contesting, ragchewing), Autumn (DX, contesting, ragchewing), Winter (DX, kit building, ragchewing)

Folks, those antenna repairs should be underway to get ready for the next season...

Final comment: Just GOTA!

— 73, Glen Roberts KE7FD

President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

NOAA is considering ending the North Atlantic and North Pacific marine storm warning announcements on WWV, and WWVH. Termination would be on October 1st, 2017. NOAA wants to hear from as many interested parties as possible, by May 31st.

Send all comments via e-mail, with "MARINE WARNING" in the subject line, to NWWSIssues@noaa.gov

Saturday, April 29th proved to be an interesting day. Some of the regulars at **the WASH Breakfast Gang** were down at Heritage participating in their SET event — see article and pictures starting on Page 7 — and of those who did gather at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19) in Canonsburg, we've had no report. (Ye Editor was busy bringing Little Miss Field Day home from college).

So without further ado, our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, May 28th, as usual at **Suzie B's**, 950 South Central Avenue (Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19), Canonsburg, officially starting at **8:00 AM**. 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?

WASH in the ARRL EME Contest:

What's EME? Bouncing signals off the moon.

Isn't that hard? Used to be, but no more. Most people think it takes massive antennas and megawatts of ERP, but no more.

A few years ago, Kevin N3HKQ (sadly SK) proposed that **WASH** develop an EME station. We purchased 4 15-element yagis, used my Az-El rotator atop the tower trailer, and employed digital communications software which can dig signals many db out of the noise. Using a borrowed 160 W amp, we made 2 failed attempts from my QTH. Later that year, we tried again at Field day, and worked a DL on 70cm. There is about zero chance of working a DL on any terrestrial path on 70cm. This was really moonbounce!

Recently, a few **WASH** members have suggested trying it again. Since our last successful OP, the digital software has improved considerably, and one of our members has acquired a significant power amplifier. Kevin and I acquired a significantly capable preamp, and a spare. We ought to be able to make it go. The question is, do we want to expend the effort?? It is a lot of effort, but some of us thrive on the challenges. There are also opportunities to learn.

The question is, do we want to expend the effort?

It is a lot of work to setup the tower trailer, connect preamp, antennas, relay, receiver, transmitter and computer. It is also a wonderful opportunity to experience and learn about digital communications techniques and *bounce signals off the moon!*

Are we interested???

— Jim Sanford WB4GCS

Yes, there will be a **WASH Picnic at the 2017 Breezeshooter's Hamfest** this year. The customary announcement simply didn't make it into this month's issue... but we're still a "go". Like last year, look for the club setup out in the flea market (we will try for about the same spot near the exhibit buildings we used last year), and plan to join us starting around 11:30. As usual, it will be a "pot luck" cookout, with the club providing burgers and dogs and such, with everyone coming asked to bring something — snack, dessert, side dish, deli tray, whatever.

As usual, contact Carol KB3GMN and/or Ron W3WN know if you're planning to attend, and what you can bring, so that we can coordinate everything. A follow-up email or two will be on the N3SH reflector towards the end of the month.



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

Minutes, April 6th Meeting

Harold Rosenberger K3HCR, Vice President / Secretary, **WASH**

Glen KE7FD, called the meeting to order at 19:03 hours. 17 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

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

Motion to waive reading of the minutes based on the minutes printed in the newsletter by Richie N3SBF, second by Bill W3WH, & passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Report read and accepted.

Secretary (KB3ERQ): No Report

VE (W3WN): Dates for the rest of 2017 now confirmed as April 20th, July 20th and October 19th, all at 7 PM at the WPXI Community Room. Thanks again to Frank N3FB for making the arrangements. We have one candidate pre-registered for the April exam.

Repeaters (N3FB): Seems to be repeating. Voter is voting better, but not quite where they need it. Voice processor now on the repeaters, needs some adjusting. Much more work to be done, but things are getting better.

WASHNet (KC3ELA): Going well, good participation, good comments. Chuck says he is "happy" with the net.

N3SH.ORG (N3NWR): No report

Public Service (AB3ED):

- + Jeff N3NHS gave a brief talk on the needs of the Pittsburgh Marathon (May 7th) for Amateur Radio operators.
- + Race for the Cure in Schenley Park on May 14th, contact Bob NU3Q.
- + Air show, Pittsburgh International Airport on May 13th & 14th.
- + Rick KB3IAC talked about the upcoming SET on Saturday, April 29th at the Heritage Ridge BSA camp. Volunteers need to be onsite by 9 AM.
- + Bob AB3ED: Allegheny County ARES is reaching out to each of the clubs to delegate an ARES Liaison, to represent the club to County ARES, and ARES to the club.

Contests (K3VX): No report.

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

Newsletter (W3WN): Out.

President (KE7FD): Everyone in the club is important, please look out for each other.

WASHFest 2017 (KB3GMN):

- Net results read. Applause from all present
- This year was the second highest income we've ever had
- Venue has already been reserved for 2018
- In 2018, Carol would like to have additional help throughout the day on Saturday.
- Thanks to Rick, Frank, and especially Richie
- "A complete success!" (Applause for Carol & Richie)

Old Business: None

New Business: Electric bill and ARRL Insurance are due. Motion from Carol KB3GMN, second by Ron W3WN, to authorize Mark to pay the outstanding bills. Passed unanimously

Good of the Order: Glen KE7FD brought "\$3 QRP" transceiver — they can be bought as kits for under \$3 off eBay, under \$9 assembled and in an acrylic case.

Motion to Adjourn by Carol KB3GMN, second by Bill W3WH and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 20:45

Following a short break for refreshments, our guest speaker, Mike K3AIR, the ARRL WPA Volunteer Counsel, gave a short talk on PRB-1 and related zoning, CC&R and HOA issues.



WASH Spotlight: KC3JCF

We had one candidate at our last ARRL VEC test session on April 20th.

(Who knew it would be the same night as a Penguins playoff game?)

Congratulations to new Technician Diane Northam KC3JCF. If you hear her on the air, give her a shout and a warm welcome!

Thanks as always to the VE's who came — Frank N3FB, Richie N3SBF, and Glen KE7FD. And as always, thanks to WPXI

for making their Community Room available for the exams, and to Frank N3FB for making the necessary arrangements.

Our next test session will be at WPXI on July 20th.

— Ron W3WN, VE Team Liason



Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!



Join us this month at **Suzy B's**, Route 910 at the intersection of Route 519 at US 19, 1 mile North of Downtown Canonsburg. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes. All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3GM	KB3IVX	N3RHT	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
AB3ED	KB3JHR	N3RIY	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
AB3NM	KB3ORO	N3SBF	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
AC3AJ	KB3YCX	N3UE	WASH NE	N3YPB	K3EED
AE3DL	KC3DOF	N3YQX	N0PEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
K3HCR	KC3ELA	NU3Q	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
K3SGT	KC3HNU	W3WH	N0VLR	K3LGM	KB3ENX
K3VX	KC3IRH	W3WN	N0WVP	KB3JX	KB3FNM
KA3TWI	KE7FD	W8LEV	KB3NVL	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
KA3VXM	N1NCZ	WA3PYU	KB3NVM	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
KB3DCO	N3FB	WA3VSS	WASH OH	NP2JF	N3CZZ
KB3GMN	N3IDH	WO3Z	N8DPW		N3FZ
KB3GMU	N3JFQ				N3HKQ
KB3IAC	N3RDV				N3KEH

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

Through May 1st, 2017

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

WA3JPP

2017 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

May 4 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 7 th	Pittsburgh Marathon	http://www.thepittsburghmarathon.com
May 13 th	AFD Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test	http://www.usarmymars.org/home/ announcements
May 13 th — 14 th	Wings over Pittsburgh Air Show	911th Airlift Wing Open House
May 14 th	Race for the Cure	Flagstaff Hill, Schenley Park
May 19 th — 21 st	HAMVENTION [®]	Greene County Fairgrounds, Xenia OH
May 20 th	Armed Forces Day	http://militarybenefits.info/armed-forces-day/
May 27 th — 28 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	http://www.cqwpix.org
June 1 st	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 4 th	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	Big Butler Fair Grounds, Prospect PA
June 10 th — 12 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 17 th	Cumberland Valley ARC Hamfest	http://www.w3ach.org
June 18 th	ARRL Kid's Day	 http://www.arrl.org
June 24 th — 25 th	ARRL Field Day	 http://www.arrl.org
July 2 nd	Somerset Co ARC Hamfest	http://www.k3smt.org
July 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
July 8 th — 9 th	IARU HF World Championship	http://www.iau.org
July 15 th	North Hills ARC Hamfest	http://nharc.org
July 20 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA
August 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 7 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park

"Seen" at the April Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Ron Notarius W3WN

**K3HCR, N3NHS****AB3ED, KB3GMN, K3VX, KB3IAC, W3WH****KE7FD's QRP Transceiver****KE7FD****KC3ELA, KB3JHR, N3FB****K3AIR****KB3IAC****Above:
KA3VXM
Below:
N3SBF****KE7FD, N3RDV, K3HCR****W03Z**

WASH & The April 29th, 2017 Simulated Emergency Test at Heritage Reservation (BSA)

James A. Sanford WB4GCS Photos this page courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Jim Sanford WB4GCS

On Saturday, 29 April 2017, several **WASH** members participated with PA EMS in a challenging, realistic, simulated emergency exercise at Heritage Reservation in Farmington, PA. Participants included AB3ED, KB3GMU, KB3GMN, KB3IAC, KC3ELA, KE7FD, N3FB, N3SBF, WA3PYU, and WB4GCS

Background: A year ago, a similar exercise was challenged by the loss of the repeater which responders were relying upon. This year, through contact with Rick, KB3IAC, somebody requested our participation as a backup communications means. Rick facilitated it and we showed up at 0900. Setup of Frank's portable repeater and the omni-antenna on the tower trailer began shortly thereafter and ran in parallel.

We spent most of the morning getting introduced to the teams we would support and standing around with them. Later, we learned that subsets of the teams were seeing demonstrations of new hardware while we were standing around. Lunch was served, and dispatch proceeded shortly thereafter.

I expected to be out pounding the ground in the woods; Rick directed that I hitch up with COMMAND, and man our position in the command van, because, "You're military, and you know how to talk to these people." OK, guess I can do that.

Scenario: Law enforcement raids illegal distillation unit and bootleggers respond violently. Multiple shooters and the still is detonated, leading to multiple injuries.

Mission: EMS mission is to locate unknown number of personnel with unknown injuries, extract and evacuate them to Casualty Collection Point (CCP) for evaluation/treatment/evacuation.

Our mission: To provide redundant communications over an extended and difficult terrain, where



The WASH Volunteers, L—R: AB3ED, N3FB, KB3GMU, N3SBF, KE7FD, KB3GMN (sitting), WB4GCS, WA3PYU, KB3IAC



Crank 'er up!
N3FB, KE7FD



Installing the antennas on the Tower Trailer
KB3IAC, N3FB

Continued on page
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WB4GCS at the designated Amateur Radio desk in the
Command Center van. (See the HT? It's hidden)



The Command Center van... which
has a strange resemblance To
"Eagle 5" from Spaceballs...



WASH & The April 29th, 2017 Simulated Emergency Test at Heritage Reservation (BSA)

Photos this page courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Bob Timmons AB3ED



"Seen" At The 2017 Visalia DX Convention

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2017 Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

Think that's a nice tower?



THIS is what rotates it!



Elecraft introduced their new KPA1500 solid state 1500 Watt amplifier... MSRP \$6000



MB1 SDR Transceiver



QRP SDR Transceiver



New SteppIR Beam?



DX Forum

WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Falls Creek, PA, April 27th, 2017 — Had a good time at the Two Rivers ARC Hamfest this past Sunday (April 23rd). There was a good turnout, and lots of great food!

Thanks to South-1 DEC Terry Nemitz KA3UTD, Allegheny County EC Bob Timmins AB3ED, DXCC Card Checker Jack Buzon KA3HPM, and PIO Bob Mente NU3Q who all helped out at the ARRL table. Also, many thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hello to us, and discuss ARRL business. Your WPA Section Staff is here to serve you!

The Dayton Hamvention will take place on May 18-21 at the new location in Xenia Ohio. Hope to see you there!

Then on Sunday, June 4 plan on the WPA Section Convention at the Breezeshooters Hamfest at the Big Butler Fairgrounds, US 422 in Prospect, PA. ARRL events are scheduled all morning, including a very special guest from ARRL-HQ Staff in Newington, CT live and in person!



Happy Martian New Year!

The North Hills Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a special event station K3M as part of the Mars New Year Celebration on Friday May 5 and Saturday May 6th at the Mars Area History and Landmarks Museum in Mars, PA. The Martian Solar Year is 1 year 322 days and this is the second Mars New Year Celebration in Mars, PA. NASA will be in force with displays and fun games. This event features displays and educational programs from the Mission to Mars by NASA, as part of the NASA STEM Education program.

The NHARC will have an HF operating station, operating 80-10 on CW and SSB. We will also be on the D-Star REF0063C reflector as well as using a handheld satellite HT. ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Officials will be on hand to support the activity. Local Amateurs will demonstrate their homebuilt radio devices, and a D-Star hot spot will be running on a Raspberry Pi. K3M, Mars, PA. North Hills Amateur Radio Club. 14.255 14.055 7.235 7.055. Please send a SASE for QSL to Al Houston N2MA, 281 Forsythe Rd, Mars, PA 16046.

Final Final

Keep those emails coming, folks! It's great to see so much activity in our WPA Section. Keep up the good work and let us know what's going on in your neck of Penn's Woods. Our section staff will have a presence at every hamfest, and we are available to visit your club meetings and activities. Just ask, and we'll do our best to accommodate you!

Be sure to visit/join/participate in our online locations: WPA Website: wpa-arrrl.org --- Facebook Group: WPA ARRL

73 & Press On!

Pittsburgh Marathon May 7th

Over 150 Amateur Radio operators are needed for the 2017 Pittsburgh Marathon on May 7th, to help provide support for the Marathon Medical Staff, over 35,000 runners, and many more times spectators. Operators are needed at aid stations, mile markers, shadows for medical officials, and others. More information is available at <http://marathon.central.org> which includes a link to the [volunteer registration system](#), or contact Jeff Hutzleman N3NHS jhutz@cmu.edu (412)401-8348



Wings Over Pittsburgh May 13th & 14th

The Wings Over Pittsburgh Open House & Airshow will be held on May 13th & 14th 2017 at the USAF Reserve Base in Moon Twp., adjacent to Pittsburgh International Airport. Highlights will include the USAF Thunderbirds and an F-22 demonstration.

The show organizers have requested help from Amateur Radio operators to perform public service communications for the event. At the moment, we need at least 12 hams each day of the show.

If you are interested in volunteering or for more information, please contact Harry Bloomberg W3YG at hpb@pitt.edu

Special Note to ARES Members in Allegheny County: The air show conflicts with the Race for the Cure on Sunday, May 14th. That event is as important to us as the air show. Therefore, **we will not accept any volunteers from Allegheny County for the air show on Sunday until all slots for the Race for the Cure have been filled.**

Race for the Cure May 14th

Amateur Radio Operators are needed to help provide communications for the 25th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Mother's Day, May 14th, 2017.

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

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

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bob Mente NU3Q at (412) 279-9016, or NU3Q@Verizon.net



Military / Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test May 13th

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 26th, 2017 — The US Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard will sponsor the traditional military/amateur radio communication tests on Saturday, May 13th to mark the 66th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD). Armed Forces Day is May 20th, but the AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event will take place a week earlier in order to avoid schedule conflicts with those attending Hamvention.

Complete information, including military stations, modes, and frequencies, is [available](#) on the US Army MARS website.

The annual celebration is a unique opportunity to test two-way communication between radio amateurs and military stations (authorized under §97.111 of the Amateur Service rules). It features traditional military-to-amateur crossband SSB voice, CW, practice using legacy interoperability waveforms, and the opportunity for participating hams to utilize more modern military modes, such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). Military stations and Amateur Radio stations are authorized to communicate directly on certain 60-meter interoperability channels — 5,330.5, 5346.5, and 5,371.5 kHz.

These tests give Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners (SWLs) a chance and a challenge to demonstrate individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station. QSL cards will be available for stations successfully contacting participating military stations.

AFD Message

The Armed Forces Day message will be transmitted via Military Standard radioteletype modes (MIL-STD 188-110A/B). [Software](#) is available to demodulate the military serial PSK waveform, and detailed instructions can be downloaded. Utilizing this mode with soundcard equipment can be challenging; review the instructions carefully.

A short practice transmission will be sent at 1930 and 2330 on May 6th, 7th, 10th, and 12th on 13.506.5 MHz USB and 17.443.0 MHz USB.

Military FSK is Baudot at 850 Hz, 75 baud, low mark, and 2000 Hz center. Most RTTY programs can be set to decode this mode. To achieve low mark while receiving in USB, select reverse shift.

QSL cards are available for individuals that receive the Armed Forces Day test message. To receive a card, copy the printed text of the test message as received from the military station, and include it in your report. No attempt should be made to correct possible errors.

Stations copying Armed Forces Day messages transmitted from US Army and US Navy stations and requesting a QSL card, can [complete](#) the QSL report form online. Stations copying the Armed Forces Day message transmitted from US Air Force stations and seeking a QSL card should send a request to Armed Forces Day Celebration, Chief, Air Force MARS, 203 W. Losey St, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

Include a transcript of the received text, time observed, frequency observed, military station call sign, your full name and Amateur Radio call sign (if applicable), full mailing address (including ZIP code).

Automatic Link Establishment

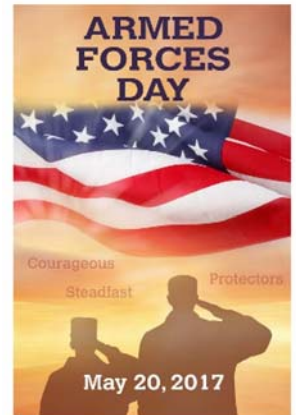
Stations with Automatic Link Establishment ([ALE](#)) capability can contact a military station on specific half duplex crossband channels established for this purpose. ALE is a selective calling and linking method utilized by government, military, and amateur radio communications. Military stations will scan and receive certain amateur HFLINK ALE frequencies and transmit on the corresponding military ALE frequency. Military stations will also transmit ALE station identification (soundings) on each military frequency at 30- to 90-minute intervals. Amateur stations may scan military frequencies and monitor the soundings to build the LQA database or select the channel manually. Amateur stations will call military stations using ALE selective calling on one of the paired cross band channels.

Announced AFD Special Operations

NEPM on board the USS *Iowa* (BB61) will be on the air for its first annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test. The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association ([BIARA](#)) and qualified Pacific Battleship Center crew members will activate NEPM.

The Potomac Valley Radio Club ([PVRC](#)) and the [US Naval Academy Radio Club](#) will operate NSS on the site of the 1918 Naval Radio Transmitting Station on Greenbury Point in Annapolis, Maryland, across the Severn River from the US Naval Academy.

Other Navy Stations scheduled to be on the air include NIIW, USS *Midway*, San Diego; NWKJ; NWKJ, USS *Yorktown*, Charleston, South Carolina, and NWVC, LST-325, Evansville, Indiana.



The Life Span of an Antenna

Well, generally it depends on hours spent listening.

The antenna converts electro-magnetic energy into electrical energy, which is basically electrons moving into your radio. There are only so many electrons in each inch of copper wire, so when they've been sent downstream into your radio, the wire will become "ionized" and deteriorate and probably fall down. This explains why, when you come home one day, your antenna is on the ground (see below).

What happens to all those electrons, you ask.

Well, they migrate into your radio and accumulate. In older tube radios, there was a "grid leak" resistor circuit which allowed the electrons to fall on the ground. Now you can't see them, but they're there. As more pile up, they slide into your back yard.

Tube radios, because of the "grid leak" last a lot longer than solid state radios, which stop working when enough electrons have piled up inside to short it out.

Now those electrons in your back yard want to get back into the copper wire, so they "pull" the antenna down to be re-united with it. Since the antenna is high, and they're on the ground, this attraction is not strong, but on a windy day, the electrons get lifted from the ground towards the antenna, pulling it down again. The wind often brings in free electrons from your neighbor's homes (from TVs, etc), so there may be a lot of these things around. If too many electrons get lifted up all at once, they overload the antenna, causing a heat mark, or worse getting back into the radio. Now this is why your antenna usually falls down on windy days.

At least, that's how I understand it.

You can extend the life of your antenna by disconnecting it from your radio when you're not listening. But overall, 500 to 1000 hours spent listening will do in a long wire antenna.

— A Tall Tale. Original Author Unknown. Source prefers to remain anonymous

US F&WS Seeks Comments on Baker Island DXpedition

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 26th, 2017 — The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) appears open to a DXpedition to Baker Island in the Pacific, which has not been activated for 15 years.



Baker and Howland Islands (KH1) is the fourth most-wanted DXCC entity, according to the Club Log *DXCC Most Wanted List*. On April 24, the FWS released a [Draft Compatibility Determination for Amateur Radio Operation](#) for public review and comment. The comment period ends on May 8. Public access to the Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is managed through a special use permit (SUP). Baker and Howland Islands are part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument ([PRIMNM](#)), created by former President George W. Bush under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The monument was expanded by President Barack Obama.

"Amateur Radio operation is an existing use at Baker Island NWR; however, it is not a common use," the FWS said in opening the *Draft Compatibility Determination* for comment. "The Service last permitted an Amateur Radio operator group to access Baker Island NWR in April 2002. The SUP authorizing this use will include stipulations, conditions, and restrictions to ensure compatibility and mitigate for potential anticipated impacts to refuge resources."

Comments may be [submitted via e-mail](#) to Monument Superintendent Laura Beauregard. Include "**Baker Amateur Radio Comments**" in the message subject line.

The FWS allowed that while Amateur Radio is not a wildlife-dependent public use, it does offer "some value as a source of public information about wildlife resources and to bring public attention to the Refuge," the FWS said. Baker Island is 1,830 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu — an 8-day voyage.

"Deployment and breakdown of the camp and radio equipment usually takes 2 days on each end of the trip," the *Draft Compatibility Determination* estimates. "Selection of a landing site will depend on conditions at sea, and conditions at the individual landing sites at Baker Island. Access to the island would be gained by small boats capable of beach landings, as there is no moorage for larger vessels."

Visitors to Baker Island would be accompanied by an FWS representative, who would approve the landing zone.

"Complete avoidance of seabird colonies will minimize nest disturbance and prevent burrow nest cave-ins," the document adds. "Activities on Baker Island will always attract the land crabs that inhabit this location. All efforts must be taken to avoid inadvertently feeding or entrapping these animals."

The FWS would also have to approve QSL cards to ensure that they include "an informative or educational statement about the Refuge." The FWS called QSLs "a valuable outreach tool."

"By allowing Amateur Radio operators to visit the PRIMNM refuges, the refuges benefit through the ability of staff to visit remote island sites to monitor wildlife populations and habitats, detect invasive species introductions, and perform management actions that would otherwise require the Service to charter a vessel," the FWS, said, pointing out the mutual advantage to the Service of accompanying a DXpedition to the island.

The K1B Baker Island DXpedition logged 96,000 contacts. #



Spratly Islands DXpedition Postponed

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 18th, 2017 — An international Amateur Radio team has postponed its DXpedition to the Spratly Islands, planned for December 2017. The DXpedition, which will take place from Layang Layang Island (Swallow Reef — AS-051) under Malaysian call sign [9M0W](#), will be on the air March 10-20, 2018. Operation will be on 160 through 6 meters, CW, SSB, and digital modes.

The team, headed by Hrane Milosevic YT1AD, had to change its plans because the resort on Layang Layang Island is closed from December until February.

The team will include participants from Kota Konibalu (9M6). Layang Island is approximately 15 acres, which includes "reclaimed" land. While the Royal Malaysian Navy maintains a presence on the reef, ownership — as with all of the Spratlys — is disputed. It is also claimed by the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and Vietnam.



Newington, CT, April 5th, 2017 — ARRL has clarified its contest rules to clearly prohibit the practice of interleaved CQs — also known as "dueling CQs" — on two or more frequencies in the same band. The clarification is an extension of existing rules that permit only "one transmitted signal," and it formalizes what had been a "gentleman's agreement." "ARRL reviewed it, concurred that this is technically occupying two channels, and in consultation with several members of the Board of Directors — who had been contacted by concerned parties — and the Programs and Services Committee, it was concluded we needed to 'clarify' our existing rules," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahne W9JJ, said.

An explanatory paragraph points out, "The intent of the rules has always been that a participant would use/occupy only a single channel in a given band, changing frequency in band from time to time leaving a CQ frequency to work a multiplier or to change the CQing frequency as band occupancy or changing propagation dictated, and this rules clarification will now give the needed added clarity to that intent."

The issue arose when a multioperator station successfully employed in-band interleaved CQs in the last ARRL International DX SSB event, substantially boosting their score.

The topic subsequently occupied a lot of bandwidth on the CQ-Contest reflector, where elite contest Frank Donovan W3LPL, observed, "That doesn't make it right for [a contest station] to follow this practice that is generally understood to be unacceptable behavior by all of the rest of us." At the time of the event, however, ARRL rules did not explicitly prohibit the practice, and as another top contest, Steve London N2IC, asked, "Falls under the 'what is not specifically prohibited is allowed' rule?"

Responding to a poster who said dueling CQs on the same band was simply "innovation," Hans Brakob K0HB, opined, "By any reasonable measure, running interleaved CQs on two [frequencies] in the same band consumes two operating channels on that band. In the existing period of limited propagation, many would consider such double-occupancy of a finite resource to be selfish, not innovative."

The update brings ARRL's contest rules in line with those of CQ-sponsored contests, which already prohibit the practice of in-band, interleaved CQs. The IARU HF Championship Contest bans the practice for multioperator entries. — American Radio Relay League

FCC Proposes Levying Huge Fine on NY Police Jammer

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 17th, 2017 — The FCC has proposed a fine of more than \$400,000 on a Queens, New York, man who has admitted making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with NYPD officers' communications. Jay Peralta, 20, is alleged to have transmitted false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers. The unauthorized transmissions began a year ago, according to the FCC.

"Through his actions, as he described them to the NYPD, Mr. Peralta has demonstrated not only a deliberate disregard of the Commission's authority and rules, but of the safety of NYPD officers and the public that they are called to serve and protect," the FCC said in a *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)*, issued on April 14. "Commission action in this context is therefore essential to safeguard authorized operations on spectrum licensed for public safety uses, and, accordingly, a substantial penalty appears warranted."

The FCC said the NAL addresses nine unauthorized and interfering transmissions that Peralta has admitted to the NYPD that he made on its radio system. The FCC said Peralta's unauthorized transmissions included false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, said that with the NAL, the FCC is making it "abundantly clear that it will not tolerate unauthorized and illegal use of the radio spectrum." The entire Commission now must sign off on such proposed fines, and Pai said he was grateful to his fellow FCC members for "agreeing to act swiftly and strongly" in the matter. "This may not be a typical pirate radio case in which an unauthorized operator inflicts damage on a radio broadcaster that is operating with a valid FCC license," Pai said, "but it does involve unauthorized interference to critical public safety communications systems."

Peralta was arrested last fall along with two other men suspected of committing several robberies. According to news accounts, police found a cache of scanners and radios in one of the suspects' homes.

The FCC said it was alerted by a Twitter post about an unlawful intrusion on the NYPD radio system and dispatched an Enforcement Bureau agent to check it out. On September 30, the NYPD contacted the FCC's New York Office and advised that it had arrested Peralta and another individual in connection with unauthorized transmissions on NYPD's radio system. According to police reports, the other individual arrested — Ricardo Torres, 29, described as "a ham radio enthusiast" in some news accounts — allegedly provided the radios used.

Torres, is said to hold an FCC General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license but his name does not appear in the Amateur Radio licensee database. Police said they found 15 portable radios, 9 scanners, roof-top antennas, an amplifier, and assorted other electronics in Torres's apartment.

Peralta has 30 days to pay or contest the proposed \$404,166 FCC forfeiture.



SET At Heritage Ridge Retrospective

continued from Page 7

communications were often difficult at best.

Observations: There were multiple instances where we were the only path. At least one of our team communicators was told, "We're getting more information from you guys than our people."

We were fully integrated. I had prime position in Command vehicle. I had at-will access to COMMAND and OPS. On multiple occasions, COMMAND and OPS came to me (with distraught looks on their faces) and asked, "Can you find out ...X.... from team...z?" Several times when I provided the information, the OPS officer looked at me, smiled, and she said, "Sweet!"

On multiple occasions, our communications discipline was better than EMS. Several times, that allowed us to clarify a message which was received garbled on EMS circuits.

We learned many lessons, and have discussed in a wrap-up at the event and on Sunday 30 April in an impromptu, short-notice gathering on the **WASH** repeaters.

Opinion: We did well and added value, which was appreciated by COMMAND — they came to us when their circuits failed.

We had to pick it up on the fly. This is frustrating but realistic — how much planning time did the hams who responded on 9/11/2001 have? "You fight the war with the Army you have, not the Army that you'd like to have." Same for communicators. We should plan to forge close relations with COMMAND, rapidly ascertain their needs, organizations, and then adapt.

Personal observation: I got burned out on this stuff over a decade ago. Participating in this very realistic drill into which we were fully integrated was very rewarding, and actually fun, if punctuated by periods of boredom. WASH can really do some good here, and I think we can enjoy it in the process.

John F. Kennedy said, "Any man can make a difference, and every man should try." (A very good Navy friend was in the audience that day)

To Saturday's participants: You made a difference.



More Antenna Work
KB3IAC, KB3GMU

The North Hills ARC 32nd Annual Hamfest Has Been Cancelled for 2017

Due to a lack of a suitable venue this year

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Were Midway & Kure Islands "Wrongly Deleted" ?

On March 31st, the ARRL announced that DXCC entities Midway (KH4) and Kure (KH7K) Islands had been placed on the list of DXCC deleted entities, retroactive to August 26th, 2016, as an unintended consequence of actions last summer by then-President Barack Obama that expanded the [Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument](#).

On April 24th, Bill Kenamer K5FUV, former head of the DXCC program, posted an opinion piece on the [Daily DX web site](#). In that article, he argues that the ARRL was incorrect in their actions.

According to the article, the issue seems to be that the expansion of the PMNM area was for water only — not land. Since this indicates that the islands or island groups themselves were not affected, their DXCC status did not, therefore change, and thus the deletion is not warranted under the rules.

Further, on doing research into the reasons for the DXCC status for both entities, K5FUV states that Midway Island (or Midway Atoll) was not, and never has been, for political or administrative purposes, part of Hawaii — either as a State or as a Territory before statehood. Midway has always been a possession of the US Government (first the military, now US F&WS) separate from Hawaii.

The expansion of the PMNM area did not change that status. K5FUV cites various sources including the web sites of the PMNM, Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, and Battle of Midway National Monument, to verify that.

If K5FUV is correct, then both Midway and Kure should not have been deleted and should be returned to the DXCC "active entities" roll.

During his tenure at the DXCC, K5FUV was instrumental in the last major overhaul of the DXCC rules, "DXCC 2000", in 1998, including the current rules (DXCC List Criteria 3(e) and 5(c)) under which an entity can or cannot be deleted, and how that deletion is to be handled.

The full text of the article, followed by comments, can be found at <http://www.dailydx.com/unfortunate-deletion-kh4-k5fuv-bill-kenamer/>.

In the comments, San Hutson K5YY mentions that during his tenure as Chairman of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC), in the late 1970's and early 1980's, this issue was discussed at length. K5YY supports K5FUV's position on the issue.

Also, Jared Smith N7SMI indicates that this was discussed with ARRL in 2016, as part of the preparations for an upcoming KH4 DXpedition. He states that at the time, they were informed that there were no plans to delete the entities.

It should be noted that many of the individuals commenting on the post blame this change on the DXAC. At present, the DXAC has no authority to make changes. Bernie McClenny W3UR indicates that his change did not come from the DXAC but from another source.

Thanks to Bill Kenamer K5FUV, Bernie McClenny W3UR, Sam Hutson K5YY, and Jared Smith N7SMI for bringing this information to light.

The Malta Communications Authority, the islands telecoms regulator, published it's new National Frequency Plan in April 2017. This includes the new WRC-15 60 Meter Amateur Radio secondary allocation of 5351.5 to 5366.6 kHz. Maximum power permitted is 15 Watts EIRP. More information at http://www.mca.org.mt/regulatory/authorizations_licensing/national_frequency_plan and http://www.mca.org.mt/sites/default/files/pageattachments/NFP_edition%205-4.pdf

— Paul Gaskell G4MWO, Editor, the 5 MHz Newsletter

DX News Briefs

Jeff Martin K5WE, has won the **2016 Single-Operator Cass Award**. The Cass Award encourages DXpedition operating excellence. While QRV from Easter Island **XRØYS** during May & June 2016, Jeff worked 7,040 unique stations during his 12-day one-man DXpedition, demonstrating an outstanding effort to log as many DXers as possible.



Presented annually, the Cass Award encourages DXpeditions to maximize the number of DXers worked with a plaque for the Single-Operator DXpedition that works the most unique call signs over a two-week interval. This award honors the wisdom & spirit of Cass WA6AUD (SK), whose stories in the West Coast DX Bulletin taught a generation of DXers that DX IS!

Congratulations to Jeff on his achievement in winning this year's award! — OPDX 1313 courtesy of KB8NW

World traveler KCØW is QRV as **TG7/KCØW** through 8 May, 40—6 meters, CW only. Tom says this is an "ultralight" DXpedition, total mass of 9 Kg. His next stop will be as **8R1/KCØW** 10 May—8 June. QSL direct only — KCØW

RMØF is now QRV as **3W9FU** through 10 May, Holiday Style, 40—10 meters. He may also be operate portable from AS-157 for 2 or 3 days during his vacation. — KB8NW

VU2PAI & VU2VKU will be QRV as **VU7KP** from Bangaram Island (AS-011) in the Lakshadweep Islands 15—19 May, Holiday style, 40—10 meters. There may be some 80 meter operations; they hope to have two stations running simultaneously. QSL via W4VKU — W4VKU, KB8NW

SQ3RX will be QRV as **9H3SQ** 15—24 May from Gozo Island EU-023, 40—10. QSL via SQ3RX — SQ3RX

SP9FIH plans to be QRV from Bethlehem as **E44WE** 16—30 May. His license is good for a year, he hopes to have more operations in that year. More information at <http://www.e4.dxpeditons.org> — KB8NW

OY/K2HVN will be QRV 14—25 June, 40—10, primarily CW with some SSB. QSL via K2HVN — K2HVN, KB8NW

F4HPX will be active from various locations, including SOTA, from AF-016 as **FR/F4HPX** 4—16 June, 40—10, multiple modes. QSL via F4HPX — F4HPX

F5RAV & F5NVF will be QRV as **3XY4D** 27 October— 6 November, 80—10, including the WARC Bands, possibly 60 meters, on CW & RTTY. QSL via F5RAV — F5RAV

GØCKB will again be QRV as **3B9HA** from AF-017 23 November—12 December, Holiday Style, with focus on the low bands and CW. QSL via MØOXO — GØCKB

QSL Routes

3Z14PRLK via SP6PZG
4X69TT via 4X6TT
5A5A via UA3DX
5P4MG via DJ4MG
8Q7VB via UA4WHX
9H3KZ via G2BKZ
9J2BO via G3TEV
AO1DA via EA1RKA
DZ4C via VE7DP
EMØRSE via UT1RT
EN3IU via USØUX
ERØPL via SP9KAT
G3P via G3WPH
GSØNWM via MØURX
HG3IPA via HA3JB
J28PJ via F1TMY
J88PI via GW4DVB
MØRSE via G3SWH

OD5YA via EA5GL
OF5CZ via OH5CZ
PC44FF via PHØNO
R75GAK via UB4W
RA36GS via RN3FY
RT6ØRT via RN9A
SE4E via SM4DQE
SO5B via SP5PY
SPØL via SP7OGP
SZ3P via SV3CYL
TC23TC via TA1AYZ
TM16ØBF via F4GFE
TM6CR via F6FMT
UB5O via R5QA
V84SWA via V85TL
XL71ØØ via VA7DP
XR4S via XQ4NUA
YT8ØØYU via YU1MM

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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For Sale: MFJ-4230MVP "Mighty Lite" 30 Amp Switching Power Supply. \$60 cash, local pickup preferred. Never used. MSRP \$99.95. Contact Ron W3WN w3wn@n3sh.org



Revised Memorandum of Understanding Between ARRL & FCC Still A Work In Progress

The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) has directed that work begin on finalizing the language of a revised memorandum of understanding between ARRL and the FCC regarding the Amateur Auxiliary (Official Observer) program. The EC met on March 25 in Aurora, Colorado. The panel, which acts on behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors between its regular meetings, heard an update on the Official Observer Program Revitalization Study from ARRL Second Vice President and committee chair Brian Mileschovsky N5ZGT, who said his committee plans to present final recommendations later this year on revamping the Amateur Auxiliary, for ultimate consideration by the full Board.

In his remarks, General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD, was complimentary of new FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and told the EC he thinks enforcement efforts may be more successful in the future, due to the new chairman's interest in the issue. Imlay also said the new chief of the Enforcement Bureau, Michael Carowitz, is reported to be "amateur friendly." He told the EC that he foresees a potential window of opportunity for improved spectrum enforcement work, as well as the opportunity to build a stronger working relationship with the FCC on all issues.

— American Radio Relay League

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Just send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahooogroups.com and the automation should take care of the rest!

FCC FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 28th, 2017 — In a lengthy *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) in a proceeding (WT Docket No. 10-119) dating back 7 years, the FCC has announced rule changes affecting the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), the Family Radio Service (FRS), the Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS or "CB"), as well as other applications that fall under the FCC's Part 95 Personal Radio Services (PRS) rules and regulations. Part 95 devices typically are low-power units that communicate over shared spectrum and, with some exceptions, do not require an individual user license from the FCC. As the *R&O* explains, common examples of PRS devices include "walkie-talkies;" radio-control cars, boats, and planes; hearing assistance devices; CB radios; medical implant devices; and Personal Locator Beacons.

"This draft *Report and Order* completes a thorough review of the PRS rules in order to modernize them, remove outdated requirements, and reorganize them to make it easier to find information," the FCC said in a summary attached to the *R&O*. "As a result of this effort, the rules will become consistent, clear, and concise."

GMRS and FRS devices are used for personal communication over several miles; compact FRS handhelds, often sold in pairs, are widely available. While GMRS and FRS share spectrum, GMRS provides for greater communications range and requires an FCC license; FRS does not.

"The rules will increase the number of communications channels for both GMRS and FRS, expand digital capabilities to GMRS (currently allowed for FRS), and increase the power/range for certain FRS channels to meet consumer demands for longer range communications (while maintaining higher power capabilities for licensed GMRS)," the FCC explained.

The amended rules eventually will eliminate combination FRS/GMRS radios for the most part, but allow up to 2 W PEP output for FRS transceivers. "[M]any current users of GMRS/FRS combination radios do not obtain licenses to operate over the GMRS frequencies in those radios," the FCC said. "Much of this problem likely arises as a result of the mass consumer marketing of combination devices for sale to the public in large quantities to users who do not know about or do not understand the licensing requirements attached to such radios and obligations associated with operating in the GMRS."

The FCC said it no longer will certify FRS devices that incorporate GMRS capabilities or capabilities of other services. Existing GMRS/FRS combination radios that operate at power levels of less than 2 W ERP will be reclassified as FRS devices; existing GMRS/FRS radios that operate above that power level will be reclassified as GMRS devices, requiring an individual license. Radios that can transmit on GMRS repeater input channels will continue to be licensed individually and not by rule.

"We believe the 2 W limit for FRS is appropriate, because many of the existing combination GMRS/FRS radios already operate under that level with no significant complaints about interference or other problems, and it provides a reasonable balance between the desire for increased range over the prior FRS power levels and battery life," the FCC said.

The FCC said changes to the decades-old Citizens Band (CB) rules will remove outdated requirements, including certain labeling requirements. DXing on Citizens Band will become legal too. Once the new rules are effective, CBers will be allowed to contact stations outside of the FCC-imposed — but widely disregarded — 155.3-mile distance limit. The revised CB rules further clarify how hands-free devices can be used with CB radios and will allow the use of wireless microphones with CB radios. "We find the record persuasive regarding the consumer demand for this feature, and it will promote safety on the highways by reducing driver distraction for those using CB [radios]," the FCC said. The FCC left in place the current power limits for the CB Radio Service.

The rule changes will phase out the use of voice-scrambling or "obscuring" features in all Part 95 devices, and it will ultimately prohibit manufacture, importation, or sale of any devices incorporating such features, "regardless of whether the Commission has previously certified that radio."

Overall, the FCC said, its action "achieves a thorough review of Part 95 rules and creates a new rule structure where common administrative rules are consolidated to reduce duplication, and individual subparts are structured with a common numbering scheme." The FCC said the changes remove "outdated and unnecessary rules, while clarifying others."

Most of the new Part 95 rules will become effective 30 days after their publication in *The Federal Register*.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

63rd Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & Computer Show



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

Fairgrounds open at 5 PM June 3rd for Vendor & Tailgate Setup

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Table reservation cut-off date May 20th, 2017

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at
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Somerset County ARC 14th Annual Hamfest

Sunday, July 2nd, 2017, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM (Date Change)

Vendor Setup beginning at 6:00 AM

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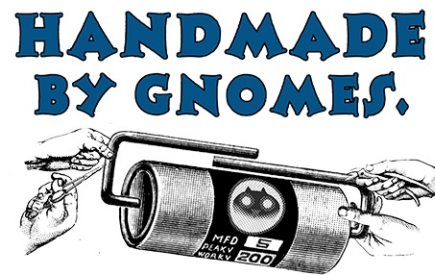


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Arhhh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



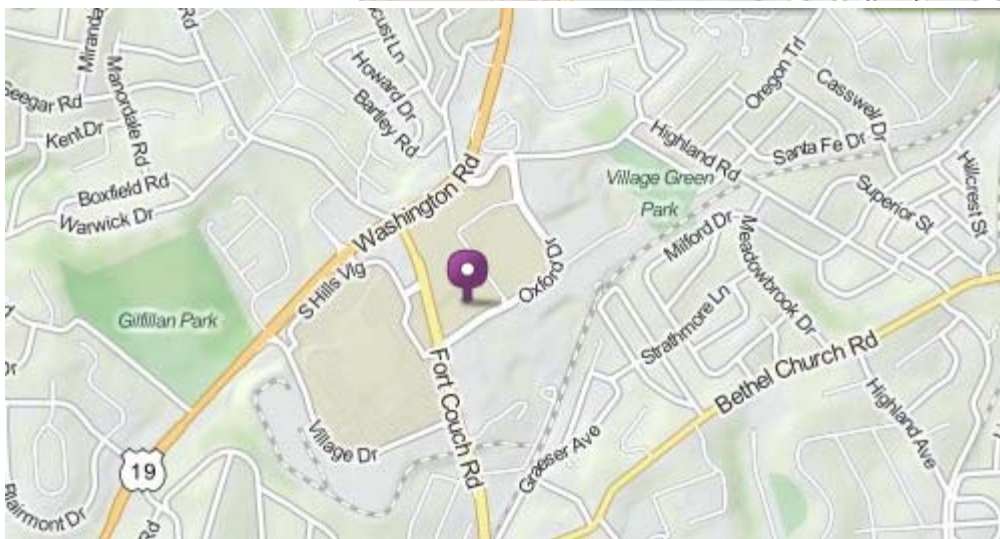
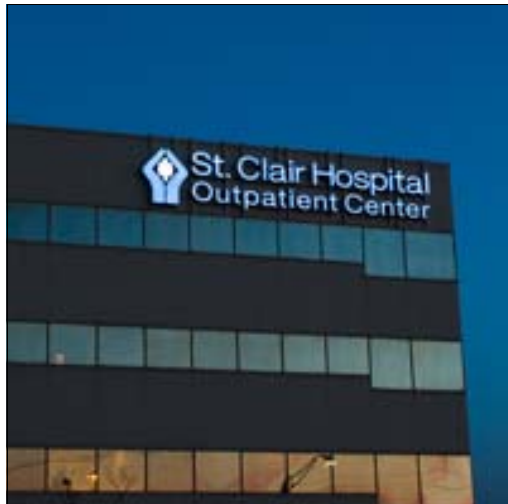
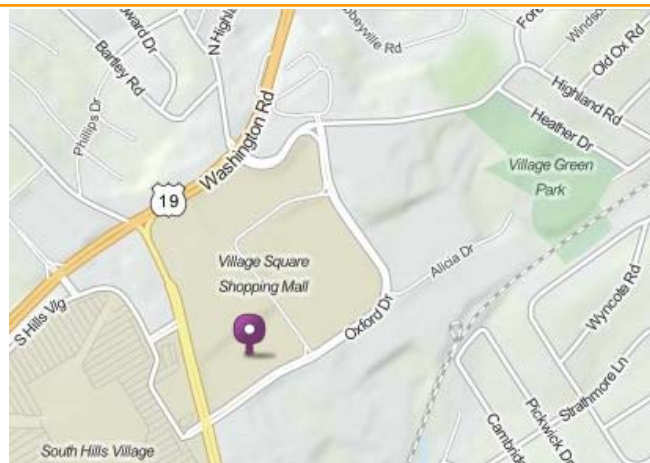
2017 WASH Meeting

Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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www.n3sh.org
www.washarc.org

